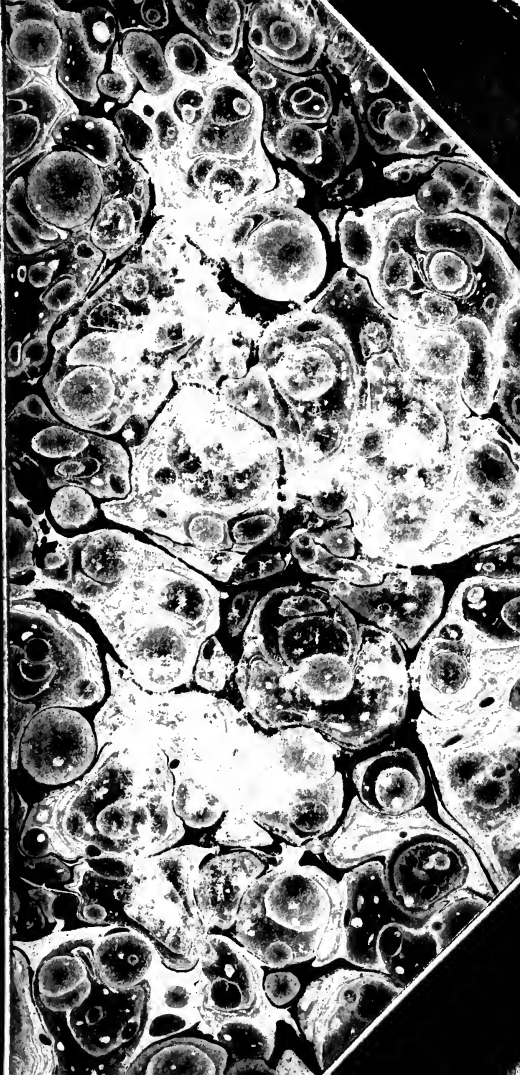


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TOPOGRAPHY
OF
Great Britain,
OR,
BRITISH TRAVELLER'S
POCKET DIRECTORY;
BEING AN ACCURATE AND COMPREHENSIVE
TOPOGRAPHICAL AND STATISTICAL DESCRIPTION
OF
ALL THE COUNTIES
IN
England, Scotland, and Wales,
WITH THE
ADJACENT ISLANDS:

ILLUSTRATED WITH
MAPS OF THE COUNTIES,
WHICH FORM
A COMPLETE BRITISH ATLAS.

BY G. A. COOKE, ESQ.

VOL. XII.
CONTAINING
BUCKINGHAMSHIRE AND OXFORDSHIRE.

London:

Printed, by Assignment from the Executors of the late C. Cooke,

FOR
SHERWOOD, NEELY, AND JONES, PATERNOSTER-ROW;
AND SOLD BY ALL BOOKSELLERS.



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TOPOGRAPHICAL
AND
STATISTICAL DESCRIPTION
OF THE COUNTY OF
BUCKINGHAM.

Containing an Account of its

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|------------|---------------|------------------|
| Situation, | Minerals, | Agriculture, |
| Extent, | Fisheries, | Markets, |
| Towns, | Manufactures, | Curiosities, |
| Roads, | Commerce, | Antiquities, |
| Rivers, | Fairs, | Natural History, |

Civil and Ecclesiastical Jurisdictions, &c.

To which is prefixed,

A COPIOUS TRAVELLING GUIDE;

Exhibiting,

*- The Direct and principal Cross Roads,
Inns and Distance of Stages,
Noblemen's and Gentlemen's Seats.*

Forming a

COMPLETE COUNTY ITINERARY.

Also,

A LIST OF THE MARKETS AND FAIRS ;

And an Index Table,

Shewing, at One View, the Distances of all the Towns
from London, and from each other.

BY GEORGE ALEXANDER COOKE,
Editor of the Universal System of Geography.

Illustrated with

A MAP OF THE COUNTY.

London:

Printed for C. COOKE, No. 17, Paternoster Row,
by Erimmer and Co. Water Lane, Fleet street,
And sold by all the Booksellers in
the United Kingdom.



INDEX OF DISTANCES FROM TOWN TO TOWN,

In the County of Buckingham.

The names of the respective Towns are on the top and side, and the square where both meet gives the distance.

| | Amersham, | | | | | Distant from London. | | Miles, | 26 |
|-------------------|-----------|---------------|----|-------------|----------|----------------------|---------------|-----------------|----|
| Aylesbury, | 14 | Aylesbury, | | | | | | | 39 |
| Beaconsfield, | 5 | Beaconsfield, | | | | | | | 23 |
| Buckingham, | 32 | 17 | 35 | Buckingham, | | | | | 57 |
| Chesham, | 3 | 13 | 8 | 31 | Chesham, | | | | 29 |
| Ivinghoe, | 14 | 7 | 19 | 21 | 11 | Ivinghoe, | | | 32 |
| Great Marlow, | 7 | 18 | 6 | 34 | 10 | 21 | Great Marlow, | | 31 |
| Newport Pagnel, | 28 | 17 | 33 | 12 | 25 | 15 | 36 | Newport Pagnel, | 51 |
| Olney, | 33 | 22 | 38 | 17 | 30 | 20 | 41 | 5 | 56 |
| Prince's Risbro', | 10 | 6 | 14 | 23 | 13 | 24 | 12 | 23 | 37 |
| Stony Stratford, | 34 | 19 | 37 | 8 | 24 | 14 | 37 | 6 | 53 |
| Wendover, | 9 | 5 | 24 | 22 | 8 | 7 | 13 | 20 | 35 |
| Winslow, | 25 | 11 | 29 | 7 | 24 | 14 | 29 | 8 | 51 |
| High Wycombe, | 6 | 14 | 5 | 31 | 8 | 19 | 4 | 25 | 29 |
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INSPECTION TABLE FOR THE COUNTY OF BUCKINGHAM.

This county is in the province of Canterbury, in the diocese of Lincoln.

| <i>Boundaries</i> | <i>Extent</i> | <i>Contains</i> | <i>Sends to Parliament</i> | <i>Produce and Manufactures.</i> |
|--|---|---|---|--|
| <p>The county is bounded on the north by Northamptonshire.</p> <p>On the east by the counties of Bedford, Hertford, and Middlesex.</p> <p>On the south by Berkshire and a small part of Surrey.</p> <p>On the west by Oxfordshire.</p> | <p>It extends 45 miles in length</p> <p>13 miles in breadth.</p> <p>133 miles in circumference.</p> | <p>513,400 acres.</p> <p>8 hundreds.</p> <p>14 market towns.</p> <p>185 parishes.</p> <p>About 21,000 houses.</p> <p>107,440 inhabitants.</p> | <p>Fourteen Members, <i>viz.</i></p> <p>2 the county</p> <p>2 Buckingham</p> <p>2 Wycomb</p> <p>2 Aylesbury</p> <p>2 Amersham</p> <p>2 Wendover</p> <p>2 Great Marlow</p> | <p>The chief manufactures of this county are lace, (commonly called bone lace and paper. Its agricultural produce corn, butter, and fat stock.</p> |

According to Camden, this county derives its name from *Bucken*, a Saxon word, indicative of the Beech trees with which it formerly abounded.

AN ITINERARY OF ALL THE DIRECT AND PRINCIPAL CROSS ROADS IN BUCKINGHAMSHIRE.

In which are included the STAGES, INNS, and
GENTLEMEN'S SEATS.

N. B. The first Column contains the Names of Places passed through; the Figures that follow shew the Distances from Place to Place, Town to Town, and Stages; and in the last Column are the Names of Gentlemen's Seats and Inns. The right and left of the Roads are distinguished by the letters R and L.

JOURNEY FROM BRACKLEY TO UXBRIDGE, THROUGH BUCKINGHAM, WINSLOW, AYLESBURY, WENDOVER, AND AMERSHAM.

| | | | |
|----------------------------|----|-----|--|
| BRACKLEY to Westbury | 2½ | 2½ | At Westbury, Benj. Price Withers, esq. and the Rev. Wm. Barnard. |
| — — — | | | Shalstone, G. Huddleston Purcfoy Jervois, esq. L |
| BUCKINGHAM | 5 | 7½ | Stowe, Marquis of Bucking- ham, L |
| Cross the Ouse Ri- ver. | | | Inns—Lord Cobham's Arms, White Hart. |
| Padbury | 3 | 10½ | Inn—White Hart. Haddington House, Hon. Vere Poulett. |
| — — — | | | |
| WINSLOW | 4 | 14½ | At Winslow, W. Lowndes; esq. |
| Whitchurch | 5½ | 20 | Oving, R. Hopkins, esq. R |
| Hardwick | 1½ | 21¼ | |
| Cross the Thame River. | | | |
| AYLESBURY | 3½ | 24¾ | Inns—George, White Hart. |
| Walton T. G. | | 25¼ | To the R of Walton Common. see Hartwell, Sir W. Lee. |

| | | | | |
|------------------|----|-----|------------------------------|------------------------------|
| — | — | — | — | Weston Turville, Mrs. Tom- |
| — | — | — | — | kings and John Eade, esq. |
| — | — | — | — | Halton House, Sir John |
| — | — | — | — | Dashwood King, bart. |
| WENDOVER | 4½ | 29¾ | At Wendover, Lord Car- | |
| — | — | — | — | rington, L |
| — | — | — | — | Near Ditto, Lanford Lovell, |
| — | — | — | — | esq. L |
| — | — | — | — | Hampden-house, Lord Hamp- |
| — | — | — | — | den, R |
| — | — | — | — | Haven-fields Lodge, T. Back- |
| — | — | — | — | house, esq. L |
| Great Missenden | 4½ | 34¾ | Inn—White Hart. The Great | |
| — | — | — | — | Abbey, Oldham Oldham, |
| — | — | — | — | esq. L |
| — | — | — | — | Peterley-house, Rev. Mr. |
| — | — | — | — | Loyd. |
| — | — | — | — | The Little Abbey, Tho. Stan- |
| — | — | — | — | hope Badcock, esq. |
| — | — | — | — | Hyde-lodge, late Rev. John |
| — | — | — | — | Hubbard. |
| Little Missenden | 2½ | 36¾ | Seat of Rev. Joseph Wells, L | |
| — | — | — | — | and W. Moore, esq. |
| — | — | — | — | Shardloes, Tho. Drake Tyr- |
| — | — | — | — | whitt Drake, esq. R |
| — | — | — | — | High-house, Mrs. Scrimshire. |
| — | — | — | — | Coleshill-house, Hon. T. |
| — | — | — | — | Grenville. |
| AMERSHAM | 2¾ | 39½ | Inn — Crown. Parsonage, | |
| — | — | — | — | Rev. Dr. Drake. |
| — | — | — | — | Becke-house, Kendar Mason. |
| — | — | — | — | esq. L |
| — | — | — | — | New-house, Mrs. Sturt. |
| — | — | — | — | The Vach, late James Grant, |
| — | — | — | — | esq. L |
| Chalfont, St. | 3 | 42½ | Inn.—Pheasant. The Stone- | |
| Giles's Street | — | — | — | house, late Charles Mol- |
| End | — | — | — | loy, esq. The Rectory, |
| — | — | — | — | Rev. Morgan Jones. |

| | | | | | |
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| — | — | — | — | — | Newland Park, Sir H. T. Gott, bart. L. |
| — | — | — | — | — | Gorelands, Lieut.-Colonel Smith, L. |
| — | — | — | — | — | At Chalfont Turnpike, Geo. Devon, esq. R. P. S. Burrel, esq. L. |
| Chalfont, St. Peter | 12 $\frac{3}{4}$ | 44 $\frac{1}{4}$ | — | — | Inn—Greyhound. The Vicarage-house, Rev. Dr. Chalmers. |
| — | — | — | — | — | At Gold-hill, a Seat of Rob. Frisby, esq. R. The Grange, T. Hussey, esq. R. |
| — | — | — | — | — | Orchard Farm, Tho. Ludby, esq. R. |
| — | — | — | — | — | Chalfont-house and Lodge, Thomas Hibbert, esq. L. |
| — | — | — | — | — | Oak End, — Matthews, esq. |
| Red Hill | 31 $\frac{1}{4}$ | 47 $\frac{1}{2}$ | — | — | Inn—Hare and Hounds. Round Coppice, Carrier Thompson, esq. R. |
| — | — | — | — | — | See Hill Barn, — Wetherley, esq. L. |
| — | — | — | — | — | Denham-house, B. Way, esq. L. |
| — | — | — | — | — | Denham Court, — Thompson, esq. L. |
| UXBRIDGE | — | — | — | — | Inn—White Horse. Harefield Lodge, Mrs. Parker. Belmont-house, T. Harris, esq. Saempley-house, T. Clark, esq. |

JOURNEY FROM HIGH WYCOMBE TO UXBRIDGE,

THROUGH BEACONSFIELD.

| | | | | | |
|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|---|---|------------------|
| High Wycombe to | — | — | — | — | — |
| Wycombe Marsh | 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ | 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ | — | — | Inn—Red Lion. |
| Loudwater | 1 $\frac{1}{4}$ | 2 $\frac{3}{4}$ | — | — | — |
| Hotspur Heath | 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ | 4 $\frac{1}{4}$ | — | — | Inn—King's Head. |

| | | | | | |
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| — | — | — | | | <i>Gregorys, Mrs. Burke, L</i> |
| — | — | — | | | <i>Hall Barn, — Wood, esq. R</i> |
| BEACONSFIELD | | | $1\frac{1}{4}$ | $5\frac{1}{2}$ | Inns— <i>Bull, Saracen's Head,</i> <i>White Hart.</i> |
| — | — | — | | | <i>Wilton Park, James Du Pré,</i> <i>esq. L</i> |
| Gerard's Cross | | | $3\frac{1}{4}$ | $8\frac{3}{4}$ | Inn— <i>White Hart Bulstrode,</i> <i>Duke of Portland.</i> |
| Tatling End. T. G. | | | $1\frac{3}{4}$ | $10\frac{1}{2}$ | |
| Denham Place | | | $1\frac{1}{4}$ | $11\frac{3}{4}$ | <i>Denham Place, B. Way, esq. L</i> |
| — | — | — | | | <i>Denham Court, — Hoare,</i> <i>esq. L</i> |
| — | — | — | | | <i>Cowley, — Hillyer, esq. R</i> |
| — | — | — | | | <i>Belmont, T. Harris, esq.</i> |
| Cross the Coln Ri- | | | | | |
| ver. | | | | | |
| UXBRIDGE | | | 2 | $13\frac{3}{4}$ | Inn— <i>White Horse. A Seat</i> <i>of the Marchioness of</i> <i>Rockingham and — Free-</i> <i>man, esq. L</i> |

JOURNEY FROM HENLEY UPON THAMES TO CHENIES,

THROUGH GREAT MARLOW, HIGH WYCOMBE, AND
AMERSHAM.

| | | | | | |
|--------------|---|---|----------------|----------------|---|
| HENLEY to | | | | | |
| — | — | — | | | <i>Fawley Court, Strickland</i> <i>Freeman, esq. at Fawley,</i> <i>P. Lybbe Powys, esq.</i> |
| Mile End | | | $2\frac{3}{4}$ | $2\frac{3}{4}$ | |
| Medmenham | | | $1\frac{1}{4}$ | 4 | |
| — | — | — | | | <i>Harleford, Sir Wm. Clayton,</i> <i>bart. R</i> |
| — | — | — | | | <i>Bisham Abbey, G. Vansittart,</i> <i>esq.</i> |
| — | — | — | | | <i>Templegate-house, Thomas</i> <i>Williams, esq.</i> |
| GREAT MARLOW | | | 3 | 7 | Inns— <i>Lower Crown, Upper</i> <i>Crown.</i> |

| | | | |
|--------------|---|----|------------------------------------|
| Handy Cross | 3 | 10 | <i>A Seat of — Biscoe, esq.</i> |
| — — — | | | |
| HIGH WYCOMBE | 2 | 12 | Inn— <i>Red Lion. Wycombe</i> |
| — — — | | | <i>Abbey, Lord Carrington, R</i> |
| — — — | | | <i>Penn-house, Lord Curzon, R</i> |
| — — — | | | <i>High-house, Mrs. Scrim-</i> |
| — — — | | | <i>shire, L</i> |
| — — — | | | <i>Shardeloes, T. Drake Tyr-</i> |
| — — — | | | <i>whitt Drake, esq. L</i> |
| AMERSHAM | 7 | 19 | Inn— <i>Crown. Beel-house,</i> |
| — — — | | | <i>Kindar Mason, esq. R</i> |
| Chenies | 5 | 24 | <i>Latimers, Lord George Henry</i> |
| — — — | | | <i>Cavendish.</i> |

JOURNEY FROM THAME TO TRING,

THROUGH AYLESBURY.

| | | | |
|------------------------|----------------|-----------------|-------------------------------------|
| THAME to | | | |
| <i>Cross the Thame</i> | | | |
| <i>River.</i> | | | |
| Haddenham | $3\frac{1}{4}$ | $3\frac{1}{4}$ | <i>Kingsey, Mrs. Herbert.</i> |
| Bixthorpe | $1\frac{1}{2}$ | $4\frac{3}{4}$ | |
| Dinton | $\frac{1}{2}$ | $5\frac{1}{4}$ | |
| — — — | | | <i>Eythorp, Earl of Chester-</i> |
| — — — | | | <i>field, L</i> |
| Hartwell | $2\frac{1}{4}$ | $7\frac{1}{2}$ | <i>Hartwell-house, Sir W.</i> |
| — — — | | | <i>Young, bart.</i> |
| AYLESBURY | 2 | $9\frac{1}{4}$ | Inns— <i>George, White Hart.</i> |
| Walton | 4 | $13\frac{1}{4}$ | |
| Ashton Clinton | $3\frac{3}{4}$ | 17 | |
| TRING | 3 | 20 | Inn— <i>Rose & Crown. Tring</i> |
| — — — | | | <i>Park, Lord Eardley. The</i> |
| — — — | | | <i>Grove, Mrs. Seare.</i> |

JOURNEY FROM OLNEY TO WOBURN,

THROUGH NEWPORT PAGNEL.

| | | | |
|------------------------|---|---|--|
| OLNEY to | | | |
| <i>Cross the River</i> | | | |
| <i>Ouse.</i> | | | |
| Emberton | 1 | 1 | |

| | | | |
|------------------------|----------------|-----------------|----------------------------------|
| Sherrington | 2 | 3 | |
| <i>Cross the River</i> | | | |
| <i>Ouse.</i> | | | |
| NEWPORT PAG- | | | |
| NELL | 2 | 5 | Inns— <i>Sergeant, Swan.</i> |
| Broughton | $2\frac{3}{4}$ | $8\frac{3}{4}$ | |
| Wavendon | $2\frac{1}{2}$ | $11\frac{1}{4}$ | <i>Wavendon-house, Hugh</i> |
| | | | <i>Hoare, esq.</i> |
| WOBURN | $3\frac{3}{4}$ | 15 | Inns— <i>George, Goat. Wo-</i> |
| | | | <i>burn Abbey, D. of Bedford</i> |

JOURNEY FROM BICESTER TO AYLESBURY.

| | | | |
|-------------------|----------------|-----------------|----------------------------------|
| BICESTER to | | | |
| Black Thorn Heath | $3\frac{1}{4}$ | $3\frac{1}{4}$ | |
| — — — | | | <i>Wolton Underwood, Earl</i> |
| | | | <i>Temple, R</i> |
| Ham Green | $5\frac{1}{4}$ | $8\frac{1}{4}$ | |
| Waddeston | 3 | $11\frac{1}{4}$ | <i>Seat of W. Pigott, esq. L</i> |
| AYLESBURY | 5 | $16\frac{1}{4}$ | Inns— <i>George, White Hart.</i> |

JOURNEY FROM MAIDENHEAD TO COLNBROOK.

| | | | |
|------------------------|---------------|---------------|-----------------------------------|
| MAIDENHEAD to | | | |
| <i>Cross the River</i> | | | |
| <i>Thames.</i> | | | |
| Maidenhead | $\frac{3}{4}$ | $\frac{3}{4}$ | Inn— <i>King's Arms. The Ru-</i> |
| Bridge | | | <i>ins of Cliefden, belonging</i> |
| | | | <i>to the Earl of Inchiquin,</i> |
| | | | <i>L. Hedsor. Lord Boston,</i> |
| | | | <i>L. Braywick Lodge, Tho-</i> |
| | | | <i>mas Slack, esq. R. Can-</i> |
| | | | <i>non-hill, — Law, esq. R</i> |
| — — — | | | <i>Monkey Island, Townley</i> |
| | | | <i>Ward, esq. R Nearly</i> |
| | | | <i>opposite is Water Oateley,</i> |
| | | | <i>— Huddestone, esq. Fit-</i> |
| | | | <i>bert, Major-Gen. Irving.</i> |
| — — — | | | <i>Taplow, 1 — Leyton, esq. 2</i> |
| | | | <i>P. Grensell, esq. 3 Gen.</i> |

| | | | | | |
|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|--|--|---|
| — | — | — | | | Hall; and 4 Earl of Inchiquin, L |
| — | — | — | | | Hunterscombe, Sir W. Younge, R |
| Salt Hill | 4 | 4 $\frac{3}{4}$ | | | Brittle, — Simmonds, esq. L Inn — Windmill. Seat of Earl Grosvenor. |
| — | — | — | | | St. Leonard-hill, Gen. Harcourt, R. Sophia Farm, G. Birch, esq. R. Cranbourn Lodge, Duke of Gloucester, R. Windsor Castle, Eton College, R. |
| — | — | — | | | Stoke-house, John Penn, esq. L Baylis, Sir G. Wombwell, esq. |
| Slough, P. O. | $\frac{3}{4}$ | 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ | | | Inn—Crown |
| Tetsworth Water | 1 $\frac{1}{4}$ | 6 $\frac{3}{4}$ | | | |
| Langley Broom | 1 | 7 $\frac{3}{4}$ | | | Langley Park, Sir R. Bateson Hervey, esq. L Ditton Park, Lord Beaulieu. |
| Colnbrook | 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ | 9 $\frac{1}{4}$ | | | Inns—George, White Hart. Richlings, John Sullivan, esq. L |

JOURNEY FROM STONY STRATFORD TO DUNSTABLE,

THROUGH FENNY STRATFORD AND BRICKHILL.

| | | | | | |
|--------------------|-----------------|-----------------|--|--|---|
| STONY STRATFORD to | | | | | |
| — | — | — | | | Thornton-hall, T. Sheppard, esq. R. Woolverton, T. Harrison, esq. L |
| Shenley Inn | 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ | 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ | | | Seat of the Rev. H. Knapps, R |
| Fenny Stratford | 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ | 7 | | | |
| Brickhill | 2 | 9 | | | Inns—George, White Lion. Dunscombe Place, Phillip Duncombe Pauncefort, esq. R |
| — | — | — | | | Battlesden-house, Sir Gregory Page Turner, bart. L |

| | | | |
|------------------|------------------|------------------|--|
| Hockliffe. T. G. | 6 | 15 | <i>Hockliffe Lodge, Richard Gilpin, esq. R</i> |
| DUNSTABLE | 14 $\frac{1}{2}$ | 19 $\frac{1}{2}$ | Inns— <i>Bull, Crown, Sugar-loaf.</i> |

JOURNEY FROM BUCKINGHAM TO BEDFORD,

THROUGH STONEY STRATFORD AND NEWPORT PAGNELL.

| | | | |
|------------------------------|------------------|------------------|-----------------------------------|
| BUCKINGHAM to | | | <i>Stowe, Marq. of Buckingham</i> |
| — — — | | | |
| Penshanger | 7 $\frac{1}{4}$ | 7 $\frac{1}{4}$ | |
| <i>Cross the River Ouse.</i> | | | |
| STONEY STRATFORD | 1 | 8 $\frac{1}{4}$ | Inns— <i>Bull, Cock.</i> |
| Wolverton | 11 $\frac{1}{2}$ | 9 $\frac{3}{4}$ | |
| Stanton Bridge | 21 $\frac{1}{2}$ | 12 $\frac{1}{4}$ | |
| NEWPORT PAGNELL | 2 | 14 $\frac{1}{4}$ | Inns— <i>Serjeant, Swan.</i> |
| <i>Cross the River Ouse.</i> | | | |
| Chichely | 21 $\frac{1}{4}$ | 16 $\frac{1}{2}$ | |
| Astwood | 3 $\frac{3}{4}$ | 20 $\frac{1}{4}$ | |
| Stagsden | 21 $\frac{1}{2}$ | 22 $\frac{3}{4}$ | |
| Bromham Bridge | 1 $\frac{3}{4}$ | 24 $\frac{1}{2}$ | |
| <i>Cross the River Ouse.</i> | | | |
| BEDFORD | 31 $\frac{1}{4}$ | 27 $\frac{3}{4}$ | Inns— <i>George, Star, Swan.</i> |

JOURNEY FROM GREAT MARLOW TO BURNHAM.

| | | | |
|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|--|
| GREAT MARLOW to | | | |
| Little Marlow | 1 $\frac{3}{4}$ | 1 $\frac{3}{4}$ | <i>Bisham Abbey, G. Vansittart, esq. R</i> |
| — — — | | | |
| Bone End | 2 | 3 $\frac{3}{4}$ | |
| Hedsor | 1 | 4 $\frac{3}{4}$ | <i>Hedsor Park, Lord Boston.</i> |
| Burnham | 3 | 7 $\frac{3}{4}$ | |

END OF THE ITINERARY.

A CORRECT LIST OF THE FAIRS IN BUCKINGHAMSHIRE.

- Amersham**—Whit Monday | **Lavenden**—Tuesday before
Sep. 19; sheep. | Easter; a shew fair.
- Aylesbury**—Jan. 18, Satur- | **Little Brickhill**—May 12,
day before Palm Sunday | Oct. 29; cattle.
- May 8, June 14, Sept. 25, | **Marlow**—May 1, 2, 3, hor-
Oct. 12; cattle, &c. | ses, cattle, &c. Oct. 29,
cheese, hops, and butter.
- Beaconsfield**—February 13, | **Newport Pagnel**—Feb. 22,
Holy Thursday; horses, | April 22, June 22, Aug. 29
cows and sheep. | Oct. 22, Dec. 22, cattle.
- Buckingham**—Monday se'n- | **Oulney**—Easter Mond. June
night after the Epiphany, | 29, Oct. 21. cattle.
- March 7, (if Leap Year, | **Risborough**—May 6; cat-
March 6), May 6, Whit- | tle,
Thursday, July 10, Sept. | **Slow**—A weekly cattle
4, Oct. 2, Sat. after Old | market.
- Michael. statute and cat- | **Stony Stratford**—Aug. 2,
tle. Nov. 8; cattle. | Friday before Oct. 10,
hiring servants. Nov. 12, cattle.
- Burnham**—Feb. 25, May | **St. Peter's Chalfont**—Sep.
1; horses, cattle, sheep, | 4; pedlary.
- and hogs. October 2; | **Wendover**—May 12, Oct.
horses, cattle, hogs, and | 2; cattle.
- hiring servants. | **Winslow**—March 20, Holy
Thursday, August 21,
September 22; cattle.
First and Second Thurs-
days after Old St. Mi-
chael, October 10; hi-
ring servants.
- Chesham**—April 21, July | **Woburn**—May 4, Nov.
22, Sept. 28; cattle. | 12; horses, cows, and
sheep
- Colnbrook**—April 5, May 3. | **Wycomb**—Monday before
horses, cattel, and sheep. | New Michaelmas; hi-
ring servants.
- Eton**—Ash Wednesday; |
horses and cattle.
- Fenny Stratford**—April 19,
July 18, October 10,
Nov. 28; cattle.
- Hanslop**—Holy Thursday; |
cattle.
- Iver**—July 10; cattle
sheep, and hogs.
- Ivenhoe**—May 6, October
17; cows, sheep, hogs.

A LIST OF
THE PRINCIPAL WORKS

That have been Published in Illustration of the

Topography and Antiquities
Of the County of Buckingham.

“Magna Britannia;” being a concise Topographical Account of the several Counties of Great Britain.” by the Rev. D. Lysons, A. M. F. R. S. F. A. and L. S. and Samuel Lysons, Esq. F. R. S. and F. A. S. Vol. I.

“The Beauties of England and Wales,” by Messrs. Britton and Brayley. Volume I.

“The History and Antiquities of the Town, Hundred, and Deanery of Buckingham,” by Brown Willis, 4to. 1755.

“The History and Antiquities of the Hundred of Desborough, &c.” by Thomas Langley, 4to. 1797.

In Kennet’s Parochial Antiquities, are Accounts of a few places in Bucks, 4to. Oxon 1695.

“An Impartial Account of John Mason, of Water Stratford, and his Sentiments,” by H. Maurice, Lon. 4to. 1695. The year before this, “Some remarkable passages in his Life and Death, &c.” were published, by “A Reverend Divine, to prevent false reports.” 4to.

Some Particulars of Buckingham, Stowe, Aylesbury, &c. are contained in Shaw’s Tour, 1739. Of the same places, with Newport Pagnel, in Bray’s Tour, 1783; and of Gotherst, Stony and Fenny Stratford, Biecheley, and Newport Pagnel, in Pennant’s Tour from Chester and Northampton to Loadon, 1782.

Various descriptions of Stowe have been published both in verse and prose. The best is that by Seeley of Buckingham. with Views of the principal buildings by Medland, 8vo. 1800.

A Map of Bucks was published by E. Bower, in 1756, and another in 1770, by T. Jeffereys, “in four sheets, on a scale of one inch to a mile.” This is reduced

LIST OF TOPOGRAPHICAL WORKS, &c. 15
duced and much improved in Smith's English Atlas,
1800.

A View of Buckingham from Maids Morton Hills, was engraved by G. Bickham; and a "North Prospect of St. Peter and St. Paul's Church, as it stood before the fall of the spire," by F. Perry. Among Loggan's Cambridge Views, is one of Eton College; another was engraved by J. Price, but published by W. Collier. "A General Plan of the Woods, Park, and Gardens of Stowe," with eight large perspective Views of the Gardens, were engraved from drawings by Châtelain, by Rigaud and Baron, 1789. Four Views of Lord De Spencer's House and Gardens at West Wycombe, and two of Mr. Waller's at Hall Barn, were engraved by Woollet. Waller's Monument at Beaconsfield was engraved by Virtue, and is in the 4to. edition of the poet's works. A south-east view of Harley Ford was painted by Zuccarelli, and engraved by T. Major.

In the Vitruvius Britannica, Vol. II. are the North and West Fronts of Cliefden House. A View of Stewkley Church, by Godfrey, from a Drawing by Bishop Lyttleton, is in Grose's Antiquities. An east view of Nutley Abbey, and a view of Burnham Priory, were engraved by Buck, 1730. Among Angus's Select Views is one of Chalfont House, and in the Copper Plate Magazine are engravings by Heath, Fittler, Middiman, Ellis, and Walker, of Cliefden House, Gregorie's (now Butler's) Court, West Wycombe Park, Hartwell House, Bulstrode, Langley Park, and Marlow Bridge, from drawings by Corbould, Metz, and Girtin.

GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF
THE COUNTY OF BUCKINGHAM.

BOUNDARIES, SITUATION, AND EXTENT.

BUCKINGHAMSHIRE is an inland county, bounded on the north by Bedfordshire and Northamptonshire; on the east by Bedfordshire, Hertfordshire, and Middlesex; on the south by Berkshire; and on the west by Oxfordshire and Northamptonshire,

The greatest length from north to south is about 45 miles; its breadth about eighteen, and its circumference 138 miles, containing 518,400 statute acres.

NAME AND ANCIENT HISTORY.

The present appellation of the county was given it by the Saxons, and is supposed to be derived either from the beech trees, which then grew so plentifully in these parts, and were called *Buccum*, or from the abundance of deer which were found in the woods with which this country was covered: *Buc*, in the Saxon language, signifying a buck or hart.

This part of Britain, together with the adjoining counties of Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire, before the invasion by Cæsar, was inhabited by the *Catti-uchlani*, or as *Ptolomy* and *Dio* call them *Cattucluni*, *Cathicladani*, or *Catliluduni*. Camden is of opinion that they were the ancient *Cassii*; and there are some remains of the name in *Casho* hundred, and *Cashobury* in Hertfordshire. Their king was also called *Cassibelin*, or *Cassivelaun*, which signifies the king of the *Cassii*. They were a warlike people, and had given such proof of their courage, in conquering part of the country of the *Dobuni*, their neighbours on the west, that when Cæsar landed the Britons unanimously chose *Cassibelin* their king, to be their generalissimo against the Romans, whom he so successfully opposed, that they were forced to retire into Gaul with little or no advantage.

Cassibelin

Cassibelin being thus rid of a foreign enemy, turned his arms upon his own countrymen, the *Trinobantes*, who had favoured the Romans upon their invasion, and in a decisive battle killed *Imanuentius*, their king, and compelled *Mandubratius* his son to place himself under the protection of Cæsar, who was then in Gaul.

The next spring the Romans, under pretence of reinstating their ally, arrived again in Britain, bringing *Mandubratius* with them. Cassibelin vigorously opposed their landing, but without success, and at length after several severe encounters being besieged in his own city he was compelled to sue for peace; this he easily obtained upon the following conditions, viz. That *Mandubratius* being restored to his kingdom, should be suffered quietly to enjoy it, that he should give hostages to secure his submission for the future, and pay a yearly tribute to the Roman treasury. And so Cæsar departed, leaving the kings of Britain in the full possession of their former sovereignty, in which they continued until Aulus Plautius subjected them to the imperial power under Claudius Cæsar, and Buckinghamshire formed part of *Britannia Prima*. It was afterwards included in the province of *Flavia Cæsariensis*.

The Roman station in this county, from the few visible remains, are very difficult to fix. But by comparing the distances in the *Iter of Antonine* and *Richard*, we are enabled from their exact correspondence to discover that *MAGIOVINTUM*, must have been within the limits of this county, near *Fenny Stratford*. The site of this station is called *Auld Fields*, and abundance of coins and foundations of buildings have been discovered here.

Camden mentions a Roman town in the western part of the county, which he supposes to have been destroyed by the Danes in 914, at a place called *Burgh Hill*, and by contraction the *Brill*; and adds that Roman coins were found there in his time.

After the departure of the Romans, the Britons being infested by the Picts and Scots were obliged to call in the Saxons for their defence, who finding the Britons weak, and the country abounding in all manner of plenty, brought over such numbers of their countrymen that in a few years they became almost entirely masters of it, so far as the jurisdiction of the Romans extended.

The Saxons, who divided this part of Britain into seven kingdoms, included this county in the kingdom of Mercia, and gave it as we have above mentioned the name of Buckinghamshire.

At the commencement of the Civil Wars in the reign of Charles I. this county was one of the first that joined in an association for mutual defence, on the side of the parliament.

CLIMATE, &c.

The climate of this county is thought to be as favourable to health and longevity as any other in the kingdom. The air on the Chiltern Hills is remarkably healthy. And even in the vales it is more so than in the low grounds of other counties.

The scenery throughout the county is remarkably beautiful, and diversified with hill and dale, arable, meadow, and wood lands, particularly in the neighbourhood of Amersham and the Misen-dens. Between Marlow and Henley the scenery is rendered still more beautiful by the addition of the river Thames, and the view of its opposite banks. Among the most striking prospects in the county that from the hills above Ellecborough, commanding a very extensive view of the vale of Aylesbury, is particularly recommended.

RIVERS.

The principal rivers, from which this county derives great advantages, are the Thames, the Ouse, and the Colne.

The river Thames forms part of the boundary, and the chief ornament of the southern part of the county, dividing

dividing it from Berkshire, during a course of about 30 miles. In its progress it passes Medmenham, Great Marlow, Hedsor, Taplow, Boveney, Eton, and Datchet, and is navigable the whole of the way.

The Ouse enters the western side of the county, and passing Water Stratford, pursues an irregular course until it reaches Buckingham; it winds from thence through a fertile tract of meadow land, passing Stony Stratford, Newport Pagnel, and Olney; and soon afterwards, turning suddenly to the east, leaves the county near Snelson in the parish of Lavendon.

“ The Ouse, slow winding through a level plain
Of spacious meads, with cattle sprinkled o’er,
Conducts the eye along its sinuous course,
Delighted.” *Cowper’s Task.*

The Colne forms a part of the eastern boundary of the county, separating it from Middlesex; it passes near Durham and Iwer, through Colnbrook, to which it gives its name, and near Horton and Wyradesbury, and falls into the Thames between Ankerwyke and Staines.

The Thame is formed by the junction of several small streams, one of which near the borders of the county, in Hertfordshire, and in its subsequent course through the vale of Aylesbury is still further increased by the waters of other streams, and at length enters Oxfordshire near the town of Thame.

There are several other small rivers, on which paper and flour mills are erected.

We are told that the following fish, of a remarkable size, were recorded on the kitchen walls of the old manor-house at Tynningham (now pulled down) as having been caught in the river Ouse in this county: a carp, in 1648, measuring 2 feet 9 inches in length; a pike in 1658, 3 feet 7 inches in length; a bream, 2 feet 3½ inches; a salmon, 3 feet 10 inches; a perch, two feet, and a shad, in 1683, one foot 11 inches.

The

The river Ouse is remarkable for fine perch, pike, and bream. The little river Wyck, or Wyke, produces trout, and other fish.

NAVIGABLE CANALS.

The Grand Junction Canal enters this county near Wolverton, where it is carried across the valley, over the river Ouse, which is here the boundary of the county, by a magnificent aqueduct, of about three quarters of a mile in length; it passes near Lendford Magna, leaving Newport Pagnel on the north: by the Woolstons, Woughton, and Simpson, to Fenny Stratford; thence, leaving Stoke Hammond, Soulbury, and Linchlade on the west, it follows the course of the river Ouse to Grove; leaving Leighton Busard, in Bedfordshire, on the east, and afterwards leaves Cheddington on the west, and Slapton Ivinghoe and Mansworth on the east. Near the last-mentioned place it quits the county.

An act was obtained, in the year 1794, for making navigable cuts from the towns of Aylesbury, Buckingham, and Wendover, to communicate with the Grand Junction Canal.

AGRICULTURE.

Soil.

The face of this county is much varied, and the general nature of the soil is described to be a rich loam, strong clay, chalk, and loam upon gravel. The Chiltern Hills and their appendages occupy the southern parts. The fertile vale of Aylesbury extends through the middle of the county, and the more northern parts are diversified with gentle sand hills, entering from Bedfordshire.

The Chiltern Hills stretch across the county from Bedfordshire to Oxfordshire, forming a part of that great line of high-land from Norfolk to Dorsetshire.

The soil of these hills is chiefly composed of chalk, intermixed with flints, and though much inferior to that of the Northern District, has been rendered remarkably productive by the great attention paid to
its

its cultivation and improvement. The soil is here so very shallow and the grounds so elevated that flints seem to be absolutely necessary to keep the surface moist, and protect the grain from the too powerful effect of the sun.

The fertility of the vale of Aylesbury, which lies under the Chiltern Hills, is almost proverbial. We are told by Fuller, that a piece of pasture land, called Perryfield, in this vale, within the manor of Quarendon, belonging to Sir Robert Lee, was let for 800*l.* per annum, and that the tenant was well satisfied with his bargain: the value of the land at this time cannot exactly be ascertained, as the extent of the field is not mentioned. The late Agricultural Survey of the county, under the auspices of the board of Agriculture, fully confirms what has been said of the richness and fertility of the vale of Aylesbury. In this paper it is said: "So rich and fertile is the soil about Aylesbury and Buckingham, that we are assured it is considered a disgrace to a farmer to suffer a heap of manure to be seen at the end of his field, to plough in straight lines, to disturb an ant-hill on his pasture, or to permit more water than falls from the heavens to pass over his meadow."

In this district large tracts possess in such a high degree the advantage of obtaining water, that the farmer can flow his grounds when and where he pleases, brooks and rivulets running through the greater part of these fine meadows, with few or no mills to interrupt or controul him in the free application of their fructifying streams; yet, excepting in the neighbourhood of one or two of the paper mills, there is scarcely an acre of land watered throughout the county.

In the northern parts of the county the soil is chiefly clay.

Crops and Mode of Cultivation.

Wheat, barley, oats, beans, and santfoin, are cultivated

tivated upon the Chiltern Hills, and in their vicinity, where the soil is light, the management of the arable land is conducted with the greatest attention, and according to the most improved systems of modern husbandry. On the contrary in the vale of Aylesbury, and the more northern parts of the county, the richness and fertility of the soil has produced such a strong prejudice against any improvement among the farmers of these districts, that contented with the natural fertility which nature has bestowed upon their lands, they neglect every artificial means by which they might be rendered more productive.

For ploughing and the general business of agriculture horses are preferred to oxen. The flintiness of some parts of the soil, and the heavy quality of others, being found insurmountable objections to the use of the latter.

The swing and high-wheel ploughs, drawn by four horses, two abreast, are chiefly used in the southern district. In the northern division the loose-handle, swing, and low-wheel ploughs, drawn by five or six horses at length are preferred.

Live Stock.

The horses in general are of the strong black kind, and the coach breed. The cows consist of the short-horned Lincolnshire and Yorkshire breed, but very different from those which are kept for milking in the environs of London. North-Wiltshire wethers for store, and Berkshire ewes for breeding, are the prevailing sheep of the county. The New Leicestershire breed has lately been introduced with considerable success, but the wetness of the soil in the lower parts of the county, occasioned by its tenacity and retention, frequently occasions very serious loss by the rot; a circumstance which tends to discourage any extensive improvements in the breed of sheep in this county. Oxen and cows constitute the principal stock of the grazing farms; the

the former are composed of Yorkshire and Herefordshire beasts, which are bought in lean from 12l. to 15l. per head; the latter are barren cows purchased of the dairymen.

Every dairy farm fattens a certain number of hogs, with skim-milk, and butter-milk, without any other assistance, except when there is a scarcity of milk, and then barley-meal, beans, and peas are used as a substitute.

The immense quantities of butter annually made on the dairy farms are mostly purchased by the London dealers, who contract for it half-yearly. The average weight produced weekly from each cow is eight pounds (sixteen ounces to the pound) in summer, and six pounds in winter.

They have a very useful machine in some of the dairies, called a mill-churn, lately introduced, by which the operation of churning is greatly facilitated, and its fatigue avoided, the mill being worked by a horse. In other dairies the barrel churn is used with two handles, turned by two men, who make from five to six score pounds of butter at one churning.

In the neighbourhood of Medmenham, Great and Little Hampton, &c. many calves are suckled.

Perhaps (the Pevensey Level and Romney Marsh excepted) no land in the kingdom is better calculated for grazing cattle than the vale of Aylesbury. Its amazing fertility soon makes a visible alteration in the appearance of the animal, and the extraordinary size they afterwards attain is a proof of the nutritive quality of the grass they feed on.

Manures.

In the neighbourhood of the Chiltern Hills every variety of materials that will either constitute or increase the stock of manure is carefully collected and preserved for use.

In that part of the county which borders on Bedfordshire, about Wavendon, Broughton, and the Brick

Brick Hills, where the soil is a deep sand, a rich blue marl is found, which is very advantageously used as a manure.

The other manures are peat, ash, sand, and rabbits' dung. On some of the strong and cold soils hair and hoofs are strewn with much advantage, and soot and ashes are found to be equally beneficial to the wheat and young clover.

Size of Farms.

In looking over the division of the estates in this county, it evidently appears, that they were originally in few hands; consequently that the property possessed by individuals was large, which is indeed to this day in some measure the case: but the great influx of wealth, and the prevailing desire of acquiring landed property, has of late years been the means of considerably encreasing the number of proprietors. The generality of farms however are from sixty pounds to two hundred and fifty pounds a year throughout the county. There are not many farms of 500*l.* per annum, and not more than two or three of 1000*l.*

Wood Land.

The south-west parts of the county abounds in woods, and it is calculated that one sixth part of the land is covered with beech.

These woods require but little attention, as the old trees shed a sufficient quantity of seed to keep the wood constantly full of young plants. This valuable wood is converted to a variety of purposes; one of which is the affording an abundance of fuel to that part of the county where coals are scarce and dear.

In the parish of Wycombe there are supposed to be 709 acres of common (beech) woodland. In the neighbourhood of Chesham, are large thriving beech woods, extremely well managed. In the parish of Amersham are woods of fine beech, growing upon chalk; and in the beautiful park of William Drake,
Esq.

Esq. there is a variety of thriving timber. The heaths in the parishes of Wācendon and Brickhill, which formerly were covered with short heath, &c. were some years ago purchased by Colonel Moore, of Egginton, who, after leaving a more than sufficient allotment for the poor, inclosed the remainder, and planted it with Scotch firs and other timber trees.

These are at present in a very thriving state, and promise to become a great source of wealth to the proprietor: they have already so altered those formerly barren tracts, as to make them at this time of great value. These plantations are now in the possession of the Duke of Bedford, who has had rides cut through them, and thereby much encreased their beauty.

Whadden Chace is divided into several coppices, containing together about 2200 acres, part of which is shut up for a certain number of years, and then laid open to the deer, as well as to the commoners, for so many years more. The coppices produce large oak, ash, and other timber as well as underwood: but, from the custom of the deer and the commoner's cattle being suffered to depasture thereon without restraint, the young timber is at this time nearly destroyed.

According to ancient historians, this county formerly was so covered with woods as to be almost impassable, till Leofstan, abbot of St. Alban's, had several of them cut down, because they afforded harbour for thieves and outlaws. The whole of the Chiltern district is said to have been a forest: the western part bordering, on Oxfordshire, was occupied by the forest of Benwood, which was disforested in the reign of King James I.

A tract of land on the Chiltern Hills, extending from the Beacon Hill in Ellesborough, across the parish of Little Kimble into that of Great Kimble, and containing more than 100 acres, is covered with

box wood, which appears to be the natural growth of the soil.

The neighbourhood of Chesham abounds with the black cherry, chiefly planted in the hedge rows.

Commons and Waste Lands.

In the Agricultural Survey of the County, the common fields were estimated at 91,900 acres, but a large proportion has since been inclosed. The waste lands are but inconsiderable, their extent not being more than 6000 acres, the greatest part of which are comprised in the heaths of Iver Fulmer, Stoke, and Wycombe.

These are the most considerable commons in Buckinghamshire, and contain as follows: Wickham Heath, about 1500 acres. Iver Heath, about 1150 acres. Stoke Heath, about 1000 acres. Fulmer Heath, about 600 acres; and Great Harwood Common contains about 560 acres.

Agricultural Improvements.

The progress of agricultural improvement in this county is considerably checked on many estates, by the injudicious restrictive conditions on which they are leased. The tenants being in general, and without any reference to the quality of their land, confined to two or three crops, and a fallow, with a prohibition to the growth of clover and green food.—These restrictions are wholly inconsistent with the introduction of the improved systems of husbandry, and are as injurious to the proprietor of the soil as they are vexatious to the tenant.

MINES AND MINERALS.

No minerals of any value have been discovered in Buckinghamshire. At Wavendon, on the borders of Bedfordshire, are the celebrated fuller's-earth pits, one of which is now only occasionally worked in a close shaft. The sale for this earth from Wavendon Pits has of late much diminished, the dealers having got into a practice of procuring an article of inferior quality, from other parts of the kingdom, which they

they sell as the produce of this neighbourhood.—Mr. Pennant, on his journey from Chester, had an opportunity of seeing a large pit, which had been excavated to a considerable extent, and was open at the top. He thus describes the strata: “The beds over the marle are first several layers of reddish sand, to the thickness of six yards; then succeeds a *stratum* of sand stone, of the same colour; beneath which, for seven or eight yards more, the sand is again continued to the fuller’s earth, the upper part of which, being impure or mixed with sand, is flung aside; the rest taken up for use. The earth lies in layers, under which is a bed of rough white free-stone, and under that sand, beyond which the labourers have never penetrated.”

In Domesday Book salt works are mentioned to have been as Risborough.

There are no mineral waters of any note in the county; there was formerly one at Cuddington, but at present it is unknown.

CIVIL AND ECCLESIASTICAL DIVISIONS.

Buckinghamshire was anciently divided into eighteen hundreds; there are now only eight, which compose separate districts. The modern hundred of Buckingham includes the ancient hundred of Rouelai, Stodfald, and Lamua. The three ancient hundreds of Bonestou, Sigelai, and Moleslou, are now called Dunstow, Segloe, and Mulso, and comprised under the general name of Newport hundred. The hundreds of Elesberie, Stanes, and Riseberge, now comprise one district called the three hundreds of Aylesbury. The ancient hundreds of Coteslau, Mureslai, and Erlai are included in the hundred of Cotslow. The hundreds of Essedene, Votesdone, and Tichessele are comprised in the present hundred of Ashendon, excepting that of Adstock, formerly in Votesdone, is now in the hundred of Buckingham, and Hoggeston and Crestlow in that of Cotslow. The hundreds of Dustenburgh and

Stoches are called Desborough and Stoke. The hundred of Burnham preserves its ancient name and extent, excepting that Farnham and Eton, which were formerly comprised in it, are now in the hundred of Stoke. Desborough, Stoke, and Burnham, are the three Chiltern hundreds, the custody of which is well known to be a nominal office, accepted by any member of parliament who wishes to vacate his seat.

Buckinghamshire lies within the diocese of Lincoln, and is subject to an Archdeacon, who takes his title from the county. It is divided into seven deaneries : Buckingham, Burnham, Muresley, Newport, Waddlesdon, Wendover, and Wycombe.—The parishes of Halton, Monks-Risburgh, Wotton Underwood and Little Brick-hill, are in the peculiar jurisdiction of the Archbishop of Canterbury. Aston Abbots, Granborough, Little Harwood, and Winslow are in the diocese of London, and in the jurisdiction of the archdeacon of St. Alban's, to the monastery of which place they formerly belonged.

The present number of parishes in this county, as nearly as they can be ascertained is 201, of which 79 are vicarages, and 29 curacies or donations.

Buckinghamshire has no city. It contains fourteen market towns : Agmondesham, or Amersham, Aylesbury, Beaconsfield, Buckingham, Chesham, Ivinghoe, Great Marlow, Newport Pagnel, Olney, Prince's Risborough, Stony Stratford, Wendover, Winslow, and High or Chipping Wycombe.

The county sends fourteen members to parliament, two for the county town, and two for each of the boroughs of Aylesbury, Amersham, Great Marlow, Wendover, and Chipping Wycombe.

The summer assizes for the county are held at Buckingham ; the lent assizes at Aylesbury. The quarter sessions are always held at Aylesbury.

According to the returns made under the act of parliament, for ascertaining the population of this kingdom

kingdom in 1801, it appears that there were then 20,448 inhabited houses, and 543 uninhabited houses, in Buckinghamshire. The total number of inhabitants is stated to be 107,444, of whom 52,014 were males, and 55,350 females. Of this total number there was 25,083 employed in agriculture, and 20,138 in trade, manufactures, and handicrafts.

TOPOGRAPHICAL DESCRIPTION OF BUCKINGHAMSHIRE.

Journey from Brackley to Uxbridge ; through Buckingham, Winslow, Aylesbury, Wendover, and Amersham.

At BIDDLESTON or Bettlesdon, about three miles to the right of our road, there were in 1712, considerable remains of an abbey and conventual church, founded in 1147, by the monks of Gerendon in Leicestershire, for the Cistercian order. It is said that the manor of Biddleston, at the time of making Domesday Book, belonged to the Conqueror ; it afterwards became the property of Robert de Mapershall, who according to Camden, forfeited it for stealing one of the king's hounds, but other writers say, that it was forfeited to the Earl of Leicester, as his lord paramount. The fact, as stated in the original record, printed in Dugdale's Monasticon, appears to be that Robert de Mapershall, having been tried in the king's court for stealing a dog, gave this manor to the chamberlain of Henry I. Jeffry de Clinton, for his influence in the suit ; and having sometime afterwards married a relation of the chamberlain, received the manor back again. After this going to reside at his native place Mapershall, in Bedfordshire, he neglected to pay the suit and services, due to the Earl of Leicester, (as his lord paramount) for the manor of Biddleston, upon which the earl seized the manor into his own hands, and gave it to Ernalde Bosco, his steward. De Bosco, with the earl's permission, gave the estate to the monks of Gerendon above mentioned, to the intent

that they should found a convent, which they accordingly did.

It was dedicated to St. Mary and St. Nicholas, and at the Dissolution was valued at 125l. 4s. 3d. per annum.

In the year 1712, the estate was possessed by Mr. Henry Sayer, who destroyed all the remains of the abbey, and entirely levelled the ground on which it stood. Previous to this the remain consisted of part of the east side of the cloisters, part of a tower, a small chapel and the chapter-house, a handsome room about 40 feet square, with a vaulted roof, supported by four pillars. In the chapel was a monument of one of the lords Zouch, and the tombs of Thomas Billing, lord chief justice of the court of common pleas, who died in 1481, one of the Lovett family, and some others.

A modern Chapel, built adjoining to Biddleston House (now the seat of George Morgan, Esq.), serves as the parish Church.

At the time of the Dissolution, the revenues of the convent were estimated at 125l. 4s. 4d. per annum; and the site was granted with the manor to Thomas Lord Wrothesley.

In 1315, the abbot and convent obtained a charter for a weekly market at Biddleston on Mondays, and a fair on the feast of St. Margaret, both of which have been long discontinued, and the place is now but a very small village.

The parish Church of *Shalleston*, about four miles from Buckingham is a neat modern structure, in which are several monuments of the Purefoys, the ancient lords of the manor.

About a mile to the right of our road, three miles north-west from Buckingham, is Water Stratford, remarkable for the singular doctrines of its rector, Mr. John Mason, and the absurd credulity of his numerous followers. He was presented to the rectory in 1674, and, according to Granger, was a man of unaffected

fecting piety and considerable learning; but towards the latter part of his life became a visionary enthusiast, having bewildered himself in the mysteries of Calvinism. He imagined himself to be the Elias, appointed to proclaim the second advent of our Saviour, and foretold his own resurrection after three days. In the midst of his enthusiastic ravings, Mason was struck speechless; an event which Dr. Saxton, an eminent physician, ascribed to the violent exertions he had employed to enforce his arguments.

After his decease and the interment of his body, such was the extraordinary enthusiasm of his followers, that several of them asserted they had seen him, and spoken with him after his resurrection; nor were to be convinced of the absurdity of his tenets, although his successor, Mr. Rushworth, opened his grave sometime after his interment, and exposed his corpse to the view of the populace. They continued for several years after to assemble at a place called the Holy Ground, where it was asserted he had been seen and spoken to since his death.

About two miles north-east from Biddleston, at Luffield, there was anciently a priory of Benedictine monks, founded by Robert Bossu, Earl of Leicester, about the year 1124. It was dissolved by King Henry VII. on account of their poverty, and in 1500, according to Brown Willis, given to Westminster Abbey. According to Camden, it had been before forsaken by the monks on account of the plague. The site was granted after the Reformation to Sir Nicholas Throckmorton, by King Edward the VIth, and at present belongs to the Marquis of Buckingham. There are no remains of the priory buildings, and the site is occupied by a farm house. Brown Willis mentions a part of the ruins as remaining in his time, and standing within the adjoining parish of Silveston, in Northamptonshire.

About

About two miles north-west from Buckingham is Stowe, the principal seat of George Grenville Nugent Temple, Marquis of Buckingham. The earliest account of the manor of Stowe is contained in Domesday Book, which states that in the reign of Edward the Confessor its value was 60*l.* and that it was held by Robert D'Oyley, and Roger Ivory, of the Bishop of Baieux. When the Bishop was dispossessed of his lands, in the year 1088, this manor was obtained by the above, and afterwards divided between them. Stowe was retained by D'Oyley, who in 1129 bestowed it on the canons of Osney Abbey, and it belonged to the bishop of that place, when King Henry VIII. on the dissolution erected the abbey into a bishoprick; but that capricious monarch soon changing his mind, removed the foundation to Christ-Church. Stowe followed the fortune of the abbey, till Queen Elizabeth, having taken the estates into her hands on a vacancy of the see of Oxford, granted this manor and estate, in the year 1590, to John Temple Esq. a gentleman of a very ancient family, seated at Temple Hall, in Leicestershire. A park of about two hundred acres was inclosed by his descendant, Sir Peter Temple: whose son, Sir Richard, after the Restoration rebuilt the manor house, and settled 50*l.* a year on the vicarage, which in the hands of the abbots had been very poorly endowed: those lazy and luxurious dignitaries paying no more attention to the due performance of divine service than lay-impropriators in general do now. This gentleman's son was created Baron and Viscount Cobham, by George I. and dying without issue, left his estate to his second sister Hester, wife of Richard Grenville, of Wotton in this county.

Lord Cobham died in 1749, and was succeeded by the above lady, who was created Countess Cobham, a month after her brother's decease. The present owner was created Marquis of Buckingham in the year 1784.

This

This magnificent place has long been considered as the chief ornament of the county. The approach to it from Buckingham, through a Corinthian arch, sixty feet high by sixty feet wide, is remarkably grand. From this spot is the most favourable view of the house and its surrounding scenery: the whole appearing like a vast grove interspersed with columns, obelisks, and towers, which apparently emerge from a luxuriant mass of foliage. The gardens, which occupy 400 acres, exhibit a fine specimen of what may be effected by art, with scarcely any assistance from nature. They owe their distinguished celebrity from the alterations effected by Lord Cobham, assisted by Bridgeman and Kent, to the latter in particular the grounds owe much of their present beauty.

At a short distance from the Corinthian arch above-mentioned, which is erected on the brow of a hill, one mile from the south front of the house, after a design of Thomas Pitt, Lord Camelford, is one of the entrances to the *Gardens*. The whole of these are enclosed within a sunk fence or ha-ha, which extends nearly four miles in circumference; and is accompanied by a broad gravel walk, skirted with rows of lofty elms. This walk leads to many of the buildings, and to several interesting scenes, opening into the surrounding park, and affording fine views of the distant country. Near this entrance are two Ionic pavilions, originally designed by Kent, who was consulted as an architect as well as gardener; but since altered by Signior Borra, architect to the late king of Sardinia. There is a fine piece of water in the front of these buildings, which dividing itself into two branches returns through beautiful vallies to the east and to the north. The upper end of the lake is concealed amidst a mass of wood, where falling over some artificial ruins it again expands its broad bosom to reflect the surrounding scenery. On the left the *SHEPHERD'S CAVE*, designed by Kent, is situated in a rising wood, on the banks of the lake;

on the walls of which is engraved the following monumental inscription :

To the Memory of
SIGNIOR FIDO,
an *Italian*, of good extraction;
who came into *England*,
not to bite us like most of his Countrymen,
but to gain an honest livelihood.
He hunted not after Fame,
Yet acquired it;
regardless of the Praise of his Friends,
but most sensible to their love.
Tho' he lived amongst the Great,
he neither learned nor flatter'd any Vice.
He was no bigot,
Tho' he doubted of none of the 39 articles.
And if to follow Nature,
and to respect the laws of Society,
be Philosophy,
he was a perfect Philosopher,
a faithful Friend,
an agreeable Companion,
a loving Husband,
distinguished by a numerous Offspring,
all which he lived to see take good Courses.
In his old age he retired
to the House of a Clergyman in the Country,
where he finish'd his earthly Race,
And died an Honour and an Example to the whole
Species.
READER,
This stone is guiltless of Flattery,
for he to whom it is inscribed
was not a man
but a
GREYHOUND.

The path westward leads to a rude pile of building, called the *Hermitage*, and also to the *Temple of Venus*.

Venus. The last is a square building with circular arches and wings, designed by Mr. Kent. It has the following inscription:

Veneri Hortensi.

The inside is adorned with paintings, by Mr. Slater, taken from Spencer's *Fairy Queen*, book III. canto 10. And on the cieling is the figure of a naked Venus. The following motto from Catullus, is upon the frieze:

Nunc amet qui nondum amavit:
Quique amavit nunc amet.

Let him love now who never lov'd before :
Let him who always lov'd now love the more.

The Queen's statue is erected on four Ionic columns, and is situated on the side of a hill, completely enveloped with trees. The following inscription is on the pedestal:

DIVÆ CAROLINÆ.

To the gracious Caroline.

The path from hence leads to the *Boycott Pavilions*, designed by Vanburgh, and to the principal entrance gate, designed by Kent. One of the pavilions is used as a dwelling-house, the other stands in the garden. There is a noble view from hence of a bridge with a fine serpentine river, and a road, terminated by two lodges, which form a grand approach from Oxfordshire to the park and house.

By a winding walk we are led up to the *Temple of Bacchus*, standing under the cover of a wood of large trees; this building was erected after a design of Vanburgh.

In the centre of an extensive lawn, bounded by wood on each side, and sloping down to the water, is the *Rotunda*, raised upon ten Ionic pillars, and ornamented with a statue of Bacchus. This building was designed by Vanburgh, and afterwards altered by Borra.

From

From hence you cross the lawn by the front of the house, which is nearly in the centre of the gardens, dividing them as it were in two parts. In the latter division the tower of the parish church, embosomed in trees, the body of it wholly concealed from view, is one of the first things which strikes the eye ; and you are uncertain whether it is more than one of the ornamental buildings. Passing by it you enter the *Elysian Fields*, under a Doric arch, through which are seen in perspective a bridge, and a lodge, in form of a castle, the *Temple of Friendship*, and on the left are the *Temples of Ancient Virtue*, and of *British Worthies*. These three last-mentioned buildings, are adorned with statues and busts of various eminent persons, with inscriptions mentioning their particular merits.

The Temple of Ancient Virtue is a circular building of Ionic order, after the design of Mr. Kent. On the outside over each door is this motto :

Prihæc Virtuii.

(To Ancient Virtue.)

In four niches within, standing at full length, are the statues of Lycurgus, Socrates, Homer and Epaminandos ; under which are the following appropriate inscriptions, written by George Lord Lyttleton. The statues were executed by Scheemaker.

LYCURGUS,

Qui summo cum consilio, inventis legibus
Omnemque contra corruptelam munus optime

Pater Patriæ

Libertate firmissimam

Et mores Sanctissimos

Expulsâ cum divitiis avaritiâ, luxuriâ, libidine

In multa sæcula

Civibus suis instituit.

(Englished.)

Licurgus, who having planned, with consummate wisdom,

dom, a system of laws, firmly secured against every encroachment of corruption; and having by the expulsion of riches, banished luxury, avarice, and intemperance, established in the state, for many ages, perfect liberty, and inviolable purity of manners.—The Father of his Country.

SOCRATES.

Qui corruptissimâ in civitate innocens
Bonorum hortator unici cultor DEI
Ab inutili otio et vanis disputationibus
Ad officia vitæ et societatis comoda
Philosophiam avocavit
Hominum sapientissimus.

(Englished.)

Socrates, who, innocent in the midst of a most corrupt people; the encourager of the good; a worshipper of our God; from useless speculations and vain disputes restored philosophy to the duties of life, and the benefit of society.—The Wisest of Men.

HOMER.

Qui poëtarum nimus, idem et maximus
Virtutis præco, et immortalitatis Largitor
Divino carmine
Ad pulchrè audendum et patiendum fortiter
Omnibus notus gentibus, omnes incitat.

(Englished.)

Homer, the first and greatest of poets, the herald of virtue; the giver of immortality; who by his divine genius, known to all nations, incites all nobly to dare and to suffer with fortitude.

EPIMINANDOS,

Cujus a virtute, prudentiâ, verecundiâ
Thebanorum respublica,
Libertatem simul et imperium
Disciplinam bellicam, civilem, et domesticaum
Accepit;
Eoque amisso, perdidit.

D

(Englished.)

(Englished.)

Epiminandos, by whose valor, prudence, and modesty, the Theban commonwealth gained liberty and empire, military discipline, civil and domestic policy: all which by losing him she lost.

The *Temple of British Worthies*, is a semi-circular building, erected on the banks of the upper lake, after a design of Mr. Kent. It contains the busts of the following celebrated characters, with appropriate inscriptions.

ALEXANDER POPE,

Who uniting the correctness of judgment to the fire
of genius,

by the melody and power of his numbers,
gave sweetness to sense, and grace to philosophy.

He employ'd the pointed brilliancy of wit to chastise
the vices,

and the eloquence of poetry to exalt the virtues of
human nature ;

and being without a rival in his own age,
imitated and translated, with a spirit equal to the
original,

the best poets of antiquity.

SIR THOMAS GRESHAM,

Who by the honourable profession of a Merchant having enriched himself and his country, for carrying on the commerce of the world built the *Royal Exchange*.

IGNATIUS JONES,

Who, to adorn his country, introduced and rivalled the
Greek and Roman architecture.

JOHN MILTON,

Whose sublime and unbounded genius equalled a
subject that carried him beyond the limits of the
world.

WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE,

Whose excellent genius opened to him the whole heart
of man, all the mines of fancy, all the stores of nature ;

ture; and gave him power, beyond all other writers, to move, astonish, and delight mankind.

JOHN LOCKE,

Who best of all philosophers understood the powers of the human mind, the nature, end, and bounds of civil government, and with equal sagacity, refuted the slavish system of usurped authority over the rights, the consciences, or the reason of mankind.

SIR ISAAC NEWTON,

Whom the God of Nature made to comprehend his works; and from simple principles to discover the laws never known before, and to explain the appearances never understood of this stupendous universe.

SIR FRANCIS BACON, LORD VERULAM,

Who, by the strength and light of superior genius, rejecting vain speculation and fallacious theory, taught to pursue truth, and improve philosophy by the certain method of experiment.

In the niche of a pyramid is placed a Mercury with these words subscribed:

——— *Campos ducit ad Elysios.*

——— Leads to the *Elysian Fields*.

And below this figure is fixed a square of black marble, with the following lines:

*Hic manus ob patriam pugnando vulnere passi,
Quique pituites, aut Phæbo digna locuti,
Inventas aut qui vitam excoluere per artes,
Quique sui memores alios facere merendo.*

Here are the bands, who for their country bled,
And bards, whose pure and sacred verse is read:
Those who, by arts invented, life improv'd,
And by their merits, made their mem'ries lov'd.

KING ALFRED.

The mildest, justest, most beneficent of kings; who drove out the *Danes*, secured the seas, protected learning, established juries, crushed corruption,

guarded liberty, and was the founder of the *English* constitution.

EDWARD, PRINCE OF WALES.

The terror of *Europe*, the delight of *England*; who preserved unaltered, in the height of glory and fortune, his natural gentleness and modesty.

QUEEN ELIZABETH,

Who confounded the project, and destroyed the power that threatened to oppress the liberties of *Europe*; shook off the yoke of ecclesiastical tyranny; restored religion from the corruption of *Papery*; and by a wise, a moderate, and a popular government, gave wealth, security, and respect to *England*.

KING WILLIAM III.

Who, by his virtue and constancy, having saved his country from a foreign master, by a bold and generous enterprize, preserved the liberty and religion of *Great Britain*.

SIR WALTER RALEIGH,

A valiant Soldier, and an able Statesman; who endeavouring to rouse the spirit of his master, for the honour of his country, against the ambition of *Spain*, fell a sacrifice to the influence of that court, whose arms he had vanquished, and whose designs he opposed.

SIR FRANCIS DRAKE,

Who, through many perils, was the first of *Britons* that ventured to sail round the globe; and carried into unknown seas and nations the knowledge and glory of the *English* name.

JOHN HAMFDEN,

Who, with great spirit and consummate abilities, began a noble opposition to an arbitrary court, in defence of the liberties of his country: supported them in parliament, and died for them in the field.

SIR JOHN BARNARD,

Who distinguished himself in Parliament by an active
and

and firm opposition to the pernicious and iniquitous practice of stock-jobbing: At the same time exerting his utmost abilities to encrease the strength of his country, by reducing the interest of the national debt; which he proposed to the House of Commons in the Year 1737, and with the assistance of government, carried into effect, in the year 1750, on terms of equal justice to particulars and to the state; notwithstanding all the impediments, which private interest could oppose to public spirit.

Captain Grenville's Monument was erected by the late Lord Cobham, in honour of his nephew Captain Thomas Grenville. This is a lofty column, upon the top of which is the figure of Heroic Poetry, holding in her hand a scroll with

Non nisi grandia canto.

Heroic deeds alone my theme.

Upon the plinth and on the pedestal are the following inscriptions:

DIGNUM LAUDE VIRUM MASA VETAT MORI.

(The muse forbids heroic worth to die.)

Sororis Suxæ Filio

THOMÆ GRENVILLE,

Qui navis Præfectus Regiæ

Ducente classem Britannicam Georgio Anson

Dum contra Gallos fortissimè pugnaret,

Dilaceratæ navis ingenti fragmine,

Femore graviter percusso,

Perire, dixit moribundus, omnio satius esse,

Quam inertiae reum in judicio sisti;

Columnam hanc rostratam

Laudans et mærens posuit

Cobham,

Insigne virtutis, eheu! rarissimæ

Exemplum habes;

Ex quo discas,

Quid virum præfecturâ militari ornatum

Deceat

MDCCXLVII.

BUCKINGHAMSHIRE.

To his nephew
THOMAS GRILN VILLE,
Who

Captain of a ship of war,
In the British fleet,
Commanded by Admiral *Anson*,
In an engagement with the *French*,
Being wounded mortally in the thigh
By a fragment of his shattered ship,
expiring said.

“How much better is it thus to die,
“Than to stand arraigned
“Before a court-martial.”

This Naval Column
was erected
By RICHARD Viscount COBHAM,
As a monument of his applause and grief.
1747.

From this animating example,
Learn,
When honoured with command,
What becomes
An Officer.

Ye weeping muses, graces, virtues, tell
If, since your all-accomplished Sydney fell,
You or afflicted Britain e'er deplor'd,
A loss like that these plaintive lays record:
Such spotless honour and ingenuous truth,
Such ripen'd wisdom in the bloom of youth,
So mild, so gentle, so compos'd a mind,
To such heroic warmth and courage join'd!
He too, like Sydney, nurs'd in learning's arms,
For nobler war forsook her peaceful charms.
Like him possess'd of every pleasing art
The secret wish of every virgin's heart;
Like him cut off in youthful glory's pride,
He, unrepining, for his country dy'd.

George Lord Lyttleton.

The

The character of this gallant officer was most amiable : he was of true courage and conduct ; a humane and generous commander ; beloved by his officers ; esteemed as a father by his sailors. The two lines in the Latin inscription upon the pedestal, commencing at *Perire*, &c. relate to a known story, that the commander in chief threw out the signal for the line, and that the *French* fleet would have escaped if Sir *Peter Warren*, seeing the danger of losing the opportunity, had not, though second in command, made signals for a chase, refusing to take them down ; he was well supported in this by Capt. (afterwards Sir *Peter*) *Dennis*, Captain *Grenville*, Captain (afterwards Admiral) *Boscawen*, and others. The commander finding *Warren* resolute, had magnanimity enough to alter his signal from that for the line, to a chase ; and prudence enough to make no complaint of disobedience.

The Grotto stands at the head of the Serpentine River, and on each side a pavilion, the one ornamented with shells, the other with pebbles and flints broke to pieces. The Grotto is furnished with a great number of looking glassess, both on the walls and cieling, all in plaister work. The inside of the grotto is also decorated with two white marble bassons, and a statue of *Venus* apparently rising from the bath. The following beautiful lines, from *Milton*, are inscribed on a tablet of marble :

Goddess of the silver wave,
To thy thick embowered cave,
To arch'd walks and twilight groves,
And shadows brown, which Sylvan loves,
When the sun begins to fling
His flaming beams, the goddess bring.

The Temple of Concord and Victory, is a most noble building. In the front are six columns, supporting a pediment, filled with bas relief, the points of which are crowned with statues ; on each side is
a beautiful

a beautiful colonnade of ten lofty pillars. The inside is adorned with medallions of those officers who did so much honour to their country, and under the auspices of the celebrated Lord Chatham, carried its glory to so high a pitch in the war of 1755; a war most eminently distinguished by *Concord and Victory*. This temple stands on a gentle rise, and below it is a winding valley, the sides of which are adorned with groves and clumps of trees, and the open space is broken by single trees of various forms. Some statues are interspersed. This valley was once overflowed with water, but the springs not supplying a sufficient quantity, have been diverted, and it is now grass.

It has been observed that there is a particular moment when this temple appears in singular beauty: when the setting sun shines on the long colonade, which faces the west, all the lower parts of the building are darkened by the neighbouring wood, the pillars rise at different heights out of the obscurity; some are nearly overspread with it, some are chequered with a variety of tints, and others are illuminated down to their bases. The light is softened off by the rotundity of the columns, but it spreads in broad gleams on the wall within them, and pours full and without interruption on the entablature distinctly marking every dentil. On the statues which adorn the points of the pediment, a deep shade is contrasted to splendour; the rays of the sun linger on the sides of the temple long after the front is overcast with the sober hue of the evening, and they gild the upper branches of the trees, or glow in the openings between them, while the shadows lengthen across the valley.

The Temple of Concord and Victory was originally designed by Kent, but the internal decorations were completed in 1763, by Signior Borra, when it received the appellation it now bears, to perpetuate
the

the remembrance of the peace then ratified at Fontainebleau.

The pediment above-mentioned is ornamented with an alto-relievo by Scheemaker, representing the four quarters of the world bringing their various products to Britannia.

On the opposite side of the valley is *Lord Cobham's Pillar*, 115 feet high, surmounted with a statue of his lordship: upon the angles of the pedestal are four lions. The four principal faces contain the following inscriptions.

Ricardo Vicecomiti de Cobham
Exercitium Britannicorum Marescallo

Qui in Castris, et Negotiis
Rempublicam sustinuit;
Et elegantiori hortorum cultu
His⁶ primum in agris illustrato
Patrium ornavit.

MDCCXLVII.

(In English.)

To Richard Lord Viscount Cobham, Marshal of the British armies, whose military and civil talents saved his country, and who adorned it by a more elegant system of gardening first illustrated on this spot.

L. Lucullus summi viri virtutis quis? atquam
Multi villarum magnificentiam imitati sunt.

Tully's Offices.

(In English.)

How many have imitated the magnificent villas of L. Lucullus! how few the virtues of that great man!

"And thou, brave Cobham, to thy latest breath,
Shall feel your ruling passion strong in death!

Such in those moments as in all the past;

"Oh! save my country, Heav'n!" shall be your last."

A. Pope.

Consult the genius of the place in all
That bids the waters rise and gently fall,
That bids th' ambitious hills the heav'ns to scale,
Or scoops in circling theatres the vale;

Call's

Calls in the country, catches open glades,
 Unites the woods, and varies shades from shades :
 Nature shall join you ; Time shall make it grow
 A work to wonder at, perhaps a *Stowe*.

A. Pope.

Near this column is a beautiful temple called the *Queen's Building*. The entrance is by a Corinthian portico, leading to an elegant room, decorated with scagliola columns and pilasters supporting a trunk ceiling, executed from the design of the temple of the sun and moon at Rome. After the king's recovery in 1789, this apartment was decorated at the east and west ends of the room with two medallions of Britannia. In one of them she appears dejected, and has her spear reversed; on the tablet is this inscription:

Desideriis icta fidelibus

Querit patria Cæsarem.

A nation's prayers ascend to heav'n,
 That health to Cæsar may be giv'n.

In the other she is represented sacrificing to Æsculapins, on the restoration of his Majesty's health. On the tablet is this inscription.

Oh sol pulcher ! Oh laudande canam

Recepto Cæsare felix.

In the center of this apartment is a fine statue of Britannia seated on a fluted pedestal, supporting a medallion of the Queen with the following inscription.

Charlottæ Sophiæ Augustæ

Pictate Regem erga Rempublicam

Virtute & Constantia

Indifficillimis temporibus spectatissimæ

D. D. D.

Georgius M. Buckingham.

MDCCLXXXIX.

There are four other medallions on the walls of the centre compartment, composed of emblematic trophies : first of religion, justice, and mercy ; second of agriculture

agriculture and manufacture; third of navigation and commerce; and fourth of war.

On the opposite side of a deep valley is the *Gothic Temple*, a triangular building of brownish stone, with a pentagonal tower at each corner, one of which rises to the height of seventy feet and terminates with battlements and pinnacles. The others are surmounted with domes. The interior is richly ornamented with light columns and various pointed arches, and the windows are filled with a fine collection of ancient stained glass. The principal apartment is circular, and its dome is ornamented with the descents and intermarriages of the Temple family, in a regular series of armorial bearings from the Saxon earls of Leicester to the late Lord Viscount Cobham, and Hester Countess of Temple, his sister and heiress. Two of the towers contain small circular chapels, decorated with painted glass of the armorial bearings of different families. From the top of the highest tower there is a very extensive view over the greater part of the demesne, and also a large tract of the surrounding country, including several parts of Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire, Northamptonshire and Bedfordshire.

The *Palladian Bridge*, so called from having been built after a design of the celebrated Italian architect Palladio, is situated at the bottom of a gentle declivity. It consists of one large and four smaller arches, and is adorned with several antique busts. The roof on the side facing the water is supported by Ionic pillars. The back wall is covered with a fine piece of alto-relievo, representing the four quarters of the world bringing their various products to Britannia. Here are also paintings of Sir Walter Raleigh, with a map of Virginia, and Sir William Penn presenting the laws of Pennsylvania, executed by Mr. Slater. This bridge is of the same shape and dimensions as that at Wilton in Wiltshire. Near it is the *TEMPLE OF FRIENDSHIP*: this is a well proportioned structure, built

built in the Tuscan style of architecture, and ornamented with a portico supported by four columns.

The emblem of friendship over the entrance, those of justice and liberty, with the rest of the decorations, are executed with great taste. The inside is furnished with busts of the following celebrated and noble personages: Frederic Prince of Wales, the Earls of Chesterfield, Marchmont, and Westmoreland; the Lords Cobham, Gower, and Bathurst, Richard Grenville late Earl Temple, William Pitt late Earl of Chatham, and George late Lord Lyttleton. Upon the ceiling is represented Britannia seated, on one side are exhibited the glory of her annals, the reigns of Queen Elizabeth and Edward III. This painting was executed by Mr. Slater. This building is inscribed:

Amicitiae. i. e. Sacred to Friendship.

The remaining objects on this side of the garden are the *Pebble Alcove* and *Congreve's Monument*, executed from a design by Kent. The Pebble Alcove is a neat recess, very curiously embellished with pebbles, the family arms are performed with the same, and displayed in proper colours.

Congreve's Monument is an urn, which with great art expresses the genius of the man; and at the top of it is placed a monkey beholding himself in a mirror, and under him an inscription in Latin signifying that comedy is the imitation of life and the glass of fashion.

The poet's effigies lying in a careless posture, has a Latin inscription, which may be thus rendered into English:

"To the sprightly, elegant, polished wit, and the open, liberal, and unaffected manners of William Congreve, this, in some sort a consolation and memorial of his affectionate regard, is erected by Cobham."

We have now described the principal objects in these celebrated gardens; where as the late Lord Orford observes, "the rich landscapes occasioned by the multiplicity of temples and obelisks, and the various pictures

— pictures, that present themselves as we shift our situation, occasion both surprise and pleasure : sometimes recalling Albano's landscapes to our mind, and oftener to our fancy, the idolatrous and luxurious vales of Daphne and Tempe."

The house is situated on the eminence rising gradually from the lake to the south front, which is the principal entrance. The whole front of the building from east to west extends 916 feet. The central part is 454 feet, and includes the principal apartments, which range on each side of the saloon : this apartment is said to be one of the most magnificent of its kind in England. It is of an oval form, sixty feet in length, by 43 in breadth, and lighted by a dome. On the frieze extending all round the room is represented in bas-relief a Roman triumph and sacrifice, executed by Signor Valdre. The principal figures are copied from the pillars of Trajan and Antonine, and other ancient structures at Rome. The cornice is supported by sixteen elegant scagliola columns of the Doric order, rising from the pavement, which is composed of the finest massa carrara marble, in squares of four feet. The columns have white marble bases and capitals. In the intercolumniations are twelve niches and four doors ; in the former are placed eight large statues, and four bronzed and gilt and candelabras of six feet high. The statues are of Agrippina, Augustus, Meleager, Venus, Adonis, Paris, Antinous, and a Muse. The expences attending the execution of this apartment are said to have amounted to 12,000*l*.

The hall was designed and painted by Kent. The ceiling is adorned with an emblematical representation of the seven planets ; the ruling one, that of Mars, in the likeness of King William, presents a sword to the late Field Marshal Viscount Cobham, in allusion to that prince having given him a regiment at his first entrance into the army.

Over the chimney is a very curious alto-relievo, in

E

white

white marble by Banks, representing the British prince Caractacus before the throne of Claudius.

A recess in the opposite wall contains another very bold alto-relievo, representing the tent of Darius, executed by a French artist.

This apartment contains :

A statue of Paris in fine white marble.

Two fine antique Vases on marble pedestals ; both are decorated with figures and foliage.

Eight antique marble Busts,

Four transparent alabaster Urns,

And a small marble Sarcophagus.

The State Drawing Room is 50 feet by 32 and 22 high. It contains a collection of well executed paintings, most of which are by the best of the old masters, among them are the following:

Portrait of Dobson, by himself.

Prince Henry and Prince Maurice of Nassau, on large white horses ; a fine sketch by Vandyck.

Rembrandt's Father : Rembrandt.

Helena Forman, Ruben's Wife : Rubens.

Rachel's Tent : Gerrard Douw.

Two exquisite paintings of our Saviour and the Madonna, from the Colonna Palace, by Carlo Dolce.

Two landscapes, by Gasper Poussin.

Venus reclining : Titian.

Landscapes with satyrs, remarkably highly finished : Breughel.

A large landscape, with an ale-house, and a group of three figures resting on their staffs : D. Teniers.

In this apartment there is a fine Italian chimney-piece, in the centre of which is an antique tablet of oriental alabaster, representing the emblems of a sacrifice to Bacchus, and heads of Bacchanals ; the pilasters are of porphyry, together with part of the entablature : the remainder is of the finest white marble. On the mantle-piece is a most beautiful transparent vase, of oriental alabaster.

The State Gallery is 170 feet in length by 25 in breadth,

breadth, and is 22 feet high. Its walls are hung with curious pieces of tapestry. On the tables and mantle-pieces are fine bronze statues of Venus, Flora, Hercules, &c.

The State Dressing Room is 30 feet by 24, and 19 feet high. This room is also hung with tapestry, and contains a fine portrait of the late Field Marshal Viscount Cobham, by Sir Godfrey Kneller; and two capital pictures of a Burgomaster and his wife, by Van Hurst.

The State Bed Chamber is 50 feet in length by 35 in breadth, and 18 feet high. The ceiling is ornamented with the insignia of the garter, and the magnificent bed was executed by Signor Borra. The chairs, window curtains, and hangings are of crimson damask.

This apartment contains a copy, by Sir Godfrey Kneller, of Vandyck's celebrated picture at Hampton Court, representing Charles the first, on a white horse attended by Monsieur St. Irmin.

In the State Closet there are several fine cabinet paintings, among which are particularly to be noticed:—A portrait of the present King of Denmark, by Angelica Kauffman. The adoration of the magi, P. Veronese. A boy and woman by candle-light, Schalken. A Flemish piece, moonlight: Swickhart. Holy Family: Corregio. Two sketches by Rubens, one of Venus and Adonis, the other of the adoration of the Magi. The walls and ceiling of

The Music Room, are painted in Arabasques and other subjects, in the most elegant and chaste stile, by Signor Waldre. The design taken from the Loggia of Raphael in the Vatican at Rome. At each end of the room are scagliola columns, executed in imitation of sienna marble by Signor Bartoli. The capitals, mouldings, and other ornaments are richly gilt.

The Library, of the same size and shape as the State Gallery, contains 10,000 volumes of rare and valuable works, and a great number of unpublished MSS.

The *Dressing* and *Grenville Rooms* contain a great number of portraits, of which the following are the principal: Earl Nugent, by Gainsborough.—Mrs. Siddons, Lady Buckingham, from the celebrated picture of Sir Joshua Reynolds.—Edward Seymour, Duke of Somerset and Protector in the early part of the reign of Edward VI.—Thomas Seymour, Lord Sudley, high admiral and brother to the protector.—Queen Catharine Parr.—Anna Boleyn.—Henry the VII.—Charles the First.—Sheldon, archbishop of Canterbury.—Peter Temple, the founder of Stow, in 1550.—John Temple.—Hester Sandys, wife to Sir Thomas Temple, Bart. This lady as we are informed by Fuller had only four sons and nine daughters, yet lived to see above seven hundred of her own descendants.—Lord Viscount Cobham, by Vanloo.—Sir Bevil Grenville, killed at the battle of Lansdown, in the year 1648. “That which would have clouded any victory,” says Lord Clarendon, “and made the loss of others less spoken of, was the death of Sir Bevil Grenville. He was indeed an excellent person, whose activity, interest, and reputation, were the foundation of what had been done in Cornwall; and his temper and affections so public, that no accident which happened could make any impression on him. In a word, a brighter courage and a gentler disposition were never married together, to make the most cheerful and innocent conversation.”—William Pitt, first Earl of Chatham.—Martin Luther; Hans Holbein.—Oliver Cromwell; Richardson the Elder.—James Craggs, secretary of State to George I. The following epitaph on this gentleman’s tomb in Westminster Abbey, by Pope, faithfully represents his character:

Statesman, yet friend to truth! of soul sincere;
 In action faithful, and in honour clear;
 Who broke no promise, serv’d no private end,
 Who gain’d no title, and who lost no friend;

Ennobled

Ennobled by himself, by all approv'd,
Prais'd, wept, and honour'd, by the muse he lov'd.

Dean Swift; Bindon.—James, Duke of York.—John Churchill, Duke of Marlborough.—Old Richard Desborough, and his wife; Dobson. These are highly finished portraits of Cromwell's sister and brother-in-law.—John Locke.—Mr. Pope: Hudson.

The *Billiard Room* is 29 feet in length, 26 wide, and 19 feet high. It contains several curious and original portraits, among which are the following, viz:

Catharine of Braganza, wife to Charles II.
Eleanor Gwyn, whole length: Sir Peter Lely.
Lady Jane Grey, an original.
Mary, Queen of Scots.
Mary Curzon, Countess of Dorset: Vandyck.
The Lord Treasurer Southampton: Vandyck.
William, Earl of Pembroke: Vandyck.
Charles I. and his Queen Henrietta Maria: Vandyck.
Sir Francis Bacon.
Mr. Quin: Gainsborough.
Joseph Addison, Esq. Sir Godfrey Kneller.

In the *New Dining Room*, among others, are the following capital paintings:

Rembrandt's wife, in the character of Minerva:
Rembrandt.
John the last duke of Cleves: Rembrandt.
Vertumnus and Pomona: Tintoretto,
Christ rising from the tomb: Tintoretto.
St. Catharine, St. James, and the Holy Lamb: Tintoretto.
The entry of Louis XIV. into Paris.
The Death of Adonis: Rubens.
Orpheus and the brutes: Bassan.
Titian's Mistress in the character of Venus: Titian.

In this apartment is also an ancient Sarcophagus, found on the road to Tivoli, and brought from Rome by Lord Buckingham. It is about three feet long,

and 20 inches deep ; on the top lies a snake and a human figure finely executed. At one end is the following inscription :

D. M.

Antonia Pacuvio Filia
fecit sibi et Erennio filio suo piissimo
Imperatoris Trajani Caesaris Augusti
Germanii servo dispensatori
Montaniano.

The Chapel completes this suite of apartments. It is wainscotted with cedar, and hung with crimson velvet. Over the communion table is a copy of Ruben's fine picture, at Wilton, called the Holy Lamb.

The limits of this work will not permit us to give a more minute description of this celebrated seat ; we shall therefore for further particulars refer our readers to a quarto volume lately published at Buckingham, by Seely, with views of all the buildings, drawn and engraved in a beautiful manner, by T. Medland.

The beauties of Stowe have been extolled in poetry by Pope and West, who spent many festive hours with its noble owner, Lord Cobham, and by some of the most celebrated of their literary cotemporaries. Hammond, the elegiac poet, died whilst on a visit to Stowe in 1742.

The parish Church of Stowe contains only one monument of the Temple family, that of Hester, Lady Peniston, daughter of Sir Thomas Temple, who died in 1619.

In the church-yard was a large yew tree, with a remarkable extent of spreading branches, which is now parted off, and stands within the Marquis of Buckinghamshire's ground.

BUCKINGHAM,

The county town, is situated in a valley upon the river Ouse, by which it is nearly surrounded, and over which it has three bridges. It is an ancient borough,

borough, and is described as such in Domesday Book, which records that it had then 26 burgesses, all under the protection of foreign lords. In the reign of Edward III. Buckingham was made one of the staples for wool; it was then a flourishing place, and upon the removal of the staples to Calais, this was one of the towns for whose relief an act of parliament was obtained in 1545.

In 1725 Buckingham suffered greatly by a fire, which consumed 138 dwelling houses, being more than one third of the whole town; the damage was estimated at 40,000*l*.

In 1758, Lord Cobham procured an act of parliament to fix the summer assizes at Buckingham, and erected a gaol here at his own expence for the use of the town and county. The town-hall had been built many years before at the expence of Sir Ralph Verney. It is a large brick building, at the top of which is a gilt swan, the borough arms.

In the reign of Edward III. the corporation consisted of a mayor and three bailiffs; but by the charter of Queen Mary the government of the town is vested in a bailiff, and 12 burgesses, whose titles were altered by Charles II. into those of mayor and aldermen. The former charter, however, has been since restored, and the magistrates are at present entitled the bailiff and burgesses.

It does not appear that representatives were sent from this town to parliament before the year 1544, although three persons were sent as early as the 11th Edward III. to a council of trade held by that prince at Westminster. The right of election is in the bailiff and burgesses.

There are four incorporated companies in Buckingham: the mercers, tanners, butchers, and merchant-tailors, and all persons admitted to the freedom of the town must be members of one of these corporations.

Previous to the act of parliament above-mentioned
to

to have been obtained by Lord Cobham, for removing the summer assizes to Buckingham, the whole business of the county was transacted at Aylesbury. The sessions for the town and parish are held every half year, and the corporation hold a court once every three weeks for the recovery of small debts.

There was formerly a castle here, erected by the Saxon king Edward the elder, on a hill which divides the town in the middle; but there are now no traces of it remaining. It is supposed to have been anciently a seat of the Gifords, Earls of Buckingham. In 1670 a bowling green was made on the castle hill, which was much resorted to by the gentlemen of the county. According to Mr. Willis the polls for knights of the shire were taken, and he had heard that the assizes were formerly held there, in temporary booths erected for the purpose.

The spire of the old church of Buckingham, reckoned one of the tallest in England, was blown down in 1698, by a tempest, and never rebuilt; the tower itself fell March 26, 1776, since which the churchyard remains a burial place, with a chapel only, and a new church has been erected on the site of the ancient castle above-mentioned.

This elegant building, rendered more conspicuous by its elevated situation was began in 1777, and completed in four years at the expence of about 7000*l*. the greatest part of which was subscribed by the late Earl Temple. The church is built of free-stone, and has a handsome square tower, attached to its south-west end, with a spire nearly equal in height to that of the old church (being 150 feet from the ground). The inside is finished in an elegant style. The altar piece, representing the transfiguration of Christ, is a tolerable copy of a celebrated picture by Raphael, given to the parish by the Marquis of Buckingham. The arms and crests of the Temple family are carved in stone over the east and west doors. There are no monuments in the new church.

In the year 1597 Queen Elizabeth founded an Alms-house at Buckingham, for seven poor women, called Christ's Hospital, on the site of an ancient hospital dedicated to Saint Lawrence, which existed as early as 1312. It is but slenderly endowed.

John Barton, in 1421, founded an hospital for six poor persons, to each of whom he gave a groat a week to pray for his soul. In 1523 this alms-house was again given to the poor by Mrs. Dayrel, whose family most probably obtained it from the crown, after the suppression of the first foundation. It is still called Barton's Hospital.

The free-school in Buckingham was founded by Isabel Denton, in 1540, and the original endowment has been increased by several subsequent benefactors.

There is a capital mansion in the town of Buckingham, of some notoriety, called Fowler's and Lambard's. It was anciently the seat of John Barton, who in the reigns of Richard II. and Henry IV. was one of the knights of the shire. At this house Catharine of Arragon, Henry VIIIth's first queen was entertained in 1514, by Edward Fowler, and in 1644 was for several days the residence of King Charles I. The room in which he lay is still called the king's chamber.

Buckingham has held a large market on Saturdays from time immemorial. It has also ten fairs in the year on the days inserted in our list. According to the returns made under the population act in 1801, it appears that there were then 2605 inhabitants in this parish.

A large proportion of the labouring inhabitants are employed in lace-making; scarcely a house or female in the town is unprovided with a lace pillow, parchments, bobbin, gimps, pins, thread, and other requisites. The sort of lace principally made is fine thread lace, black and white; the former commonly with a French ground or perfect diamond square.

the latter generally executed with a roundish hole, called the point-ground. The maker is furnished with a round pillow, on which a slip of parchment is fixed, perforated with a great number of holes corresponding to the pattern required to be executed. These holes are filled with pins which are placed and displaced as the bobbins are moved or stitches finished. The thread is fixed on the top of small bobbins or gimps; the first are used in making fine lace, and ground, and the latter for coarse to work-in the flowers, &c.

The manufacture of lace, at Nottingham, by means of machinery, has considerably reduced the receipts of the lace-makers in this town.

The manor of Lethenborough, or Lenborough, in the parish of Buckingham, became the seat of the Ingoldsbys, an ancient Lincolnshire family, in 1445; a great part of the old mansion-house has been pulled down, and the remainder converted into a farmhouse.

About one mile north from Buckingham is a small village, called MAID'S MORTON, so called, according to Brown Willis, from its moorish situation, and the daughters of Lord Peover, or Peyvre, who built the church. This is a handsome Gothic structure, erected about the year 1450, and consists of a nave, a chancel, with a small vestry on the south side, and a curious constructed tower at the west end. The porch and belfrey have groined roofs. In the chancel are three elegant stone stalls, with rich Gothic canopies.

The parish register records the following remarkable historical facts:--“Anno 1642. This year the cross, which had like with its fall to have beat out the brains of him that did it, was cut off the top of the steeple, by the soldiers, at the command of Colonel Purefoy of Warwickshire.”

“Anno 1653. This year came in force an act of the usurper Cromwell that children ought not to be baptized,

baptized, and about marriages by justices of the peace." But it is also observed that not one in this parish complied with it, but christened the children in the church; and no persons bedded before they were solemnly wedded in the church.

This parish contains about 900 acres, which previous to the year 1801 were principally disposed in uninclosed arable land, called Morton Fields. The whole parish is now inclosed. The soil is a stiff heavy clay.

About five miles south-east from Buckingham is a small village, called CHETWODE, on the borders of Oxfordshire.

At this place there was formerly a priory of the order of St. Augustine, founded by Sir Ralph de Norwich, in the year 1244, to the honour of St. Mary and St. Nicholas. The site of this priory and the estate belonging to it came into the possession of the abbot and convent of Nuttley, and the conventual church of Chetwode became parochial; yet there still remained at this place a cell of a canon or two from Nuttley Abbey.

The principal manor is the property of Sir John Chetwode, Bart. a lineal descendant of Robert de Main, who held it under the bishop of Baieux at the time of the Domesday survey.

There was anciently an hermitage at Chetwode, dedicated to St. Stephen and St. Laurence, which was founded by an ancestor of the Chetwodes.

From the style of the architecture of Chetwode church it appears to be coeval with the foundation of the monastery. "The chancel is preserved in its original state, having lancet-shaped windows, with slender pillars, the capitals of several of which are highly enriched with figures of animals and foliage."

At PADBURY, about two miles from Buckingham, on our road, a detachment of the parliamentary army, in July 1643, were defeated by the gallant Sir Charles Lucas, who was quartered here with a party
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of the king's troops, The parish register records the burial of eight soldiers, on the second of July, 1643.

In 1742 a bridge was erected at Padbury, by act of parliament, and made a county bridge.

In the parish church of Lingewick, about two miles and a half west from Buckingham, is a curious brass plate against the east wall of the chancel, commemorative of Erasmus Williams, who died in 1603. He is represented in the attitude of prayer, and habited in a gown. On each side of him is a pillar, on which hang astronomical, musical, and geometrical instruments, painting utensils, various books, &c. On the top of one of the pillars is a globe, on the other an owl. There are various other devices, and several texts of scripture. Underneath is the following epitaph :

This doth Erasmus Williams represent,
Whom living all did love, dead all lament :
His humane arts behind his back attend,
Whereon spare hours he wisely chose to spend ;
And from Corinthian columns deck'd with arts,
Now to the temple's pillar he converts
Under the rainbow, arch of promise, where
Of hoped bliss no deluge he need fear.
He of this church did a firm pillar live,
To whom dead his wife doth these pillars give ;
Continue I by his scholar and his friend,
Who wish'd their love and lives had one end,
Erasmus More's encomium set forth,
We want a More to praise Erasmus' worth.

R. Haydocke.

The manor-house of HILLISDON, about four miles south from Buckingham, was during the civil wars in the reign of Charles I. garrisoned for the king by Sir Alexander Denton, Knt. In 1645 the garrison was surrendered, the house plundered, and Sir Alexander imprisoned ; he soon after died of a broken heart.

Hillisdon

Hillisdon Church was rebuilt in 1493, and is a handsome Gothic structure; in the east window of the north aisle is some very fine stained glass, representing various scenes from the legend of St. Nicholas.

At STEEPLE CLAYDON, about two miles to the right of our road, and three miles north-west from Winslow, Thomas Chaloner, Esq. the regicide, in the year 1656, built a school-house which still remains, and endowed it with 12l. per annum. The endowment has been lost, but a school-master is allowed two shillings a week by Lady Fermanagh, who possesses the estates of the Chalopers, formerly lords of this manor.

At SNELSHALL, near Whaddon Church, a few miles north of Winslow, there was a small convent of Black Monks, dedicated to St. Leonard, built by Ralph Martel, before the tenth of Edward III. Some arches of this building still remain, and support the north side of a farm-house. The four bells that were in the turret of the old building, were removed to the church of Bradwell; on the largest of which is inscribed, *Vox Augustini Sonet in aure Dei*. The yearly value of this priory at the Resignation was 18l. 1s. 11d.

WINSLOW,

Is a small market town, in the hundred of Cotswold, and deanery of Muresley, situated on the brow of a hill. It is a place of considerable antiquity, without however possessing any particular object to arrest the attention of the antiquary.

The market, which is held on Thursdays, was granted in 1235, to the abbot and convent of St. Alban's, to whom the manor had been given, by King Offa.

There are also five annual fairs, on the days mentioned in our list.

The parish Church is a spacious Gothic structure, consisting of a nave, two aisles, and a chancel, with a

square tower embattled at the west end. It contains no monuments worthy of notice.

According to the returns under the population act in 1801, this parish then contained 220 houses, and 1101 inhabitants, who are chiefly employed in agriculture and lace-making.

The village of MURESLEY, about four miles eastward from Winslow, had formerly a market on Thursday, which was granted to the prior of Saltshall in 1230. The market has been long discontinued.

SALDEN HOUSE, formerly a seat of the family of Gage, has been pulled down several years. It was a noble mansion, built by Sir John Fortescue, chancellor of the exchequer, who was honoured with a visit here by King James I. soon after his accession to the throne. The cost of the building is said to have been upwards of 30,000*l*.

In Muresley Church are monuments of the above-mentioned Sir John Fortescue, who died in 1607, and Sir Francis Fortescue, K. B. and others of the family. Lord Eardley is patron of the rectory.

STEWKELY, a large village, about four miles eastward from Winslow, in the hundred of Cotslow and deanery of Muresley, is remarkable for its very ancient church, which is one of the most complete specimens of Saxon architecture we have remaining. It is mentioned by Dr. Stukely as one of the oldest and most entire he ever saw. It is constructed in the form of parallelogram, 90 feet by 24. The nave is 21 feet eight inches in width; the chancel has a vaulted ceiling, the groins of which are diagonal, and ornamented with a zig-zag moulding. The windows are all small and round-headed, with the mouldings ornamented with zig-zag sculpture. Half the length of the church is occupied by two circular arches, supporting a square massive tower, the upper part of which is surrounded with 32 small intersecting circular arches, attached to the wall. The
two

two arches under the tower are highly enriched with zig-zag mouldings and grotesque heads. The west front of the church exhibits a very rich example of Saxon ornaments: the great west door is the principal entrance, and is more embellished than any other part. There are three arches, the centre of which forms the door-way, and is supported by two pillars on each side, with square capitals, zig-zag mouldings, foliage, and figures of animals.

LISCOMBE HOUSE, the seat of Sir Jonathan Lovett, is about three miles east from Stewkely. It is a quadrangular building, one side of which is occupied by a chapel, which by the style of its architecture appears to have been built about the middle or latter end of the fourteenth century; the house however is of much later date. It is erected upon the brow of a gentle eminence, which commands a fine view over the villages of Stewkely and Soulbury, and the north part of the county. The whole building is embattled and assumes a castellated appearance. The apartments contain several portraits, among which are several of the Lovett family, a half-length of Charles Brandon, Duke of Suffolk, with a pink in his hand.—Titus Oates, half length, with a bald forehead and full face.—Sarah, Duchess of Marlborough, by Sir Godfrey Kneller, a half-length.—The first *Earl of Bedford*, a half-length on pannel, dated 1555.—*Sir Edmund Verney*, standard bearer to King Charles I. who was slain at Edgehill.—*Hugo Grotius*, represented sitting in a study with a large book before him.—Eleanor Gwynn, by Sir Peter Lely; three-quarter length.—Archbishop Sancroft; half length.—Sir Edward Montague; by Holbein.

At Ascot, in the parish of Wing, about two miles from Liscombe House, there was a cell of Benedictine monks belonging to the monastery of St. Nicholas at Angiers in France, to which the church and other lands, with the manor, had been given by the empress Maud. It suffered the fate of other alien

houses, and was afterwards granted to the nuns of St. Mary du Pré, near St. Alban's, as part of which it came into lay hands at the Dissolution.

Wing Park still remains inclosed, but the house has been pulled down many years.

Dorothy Pelham, wife of Sir William Dormer, founded an Alms house at Wing, in the year 1590, for eight poor persons, and endowed it with 30l. per annum.

HOGGERTON, three miles and a half south-east of Winslow, had a market formerly on Fridays, granted in 1314 to William de Benningham, together with a fair on the feast of the exaltation of the holy cross, commonly called Holy-rood day; both the fair and the market have been long discontinued. In the parish church is the tomb and mutilated effigy of the founder, holding in his hand a church. It is said to have been intended for William de Benningham, lord of the manor, who died 1342.

At HOGSHAW, about five miles, south of Winslow, there was a preceptory commandery or hospital, belonging to the knights of St. John of Jerusalem, as ancient as the year 1180. After the general dissolution the manor which belonged to the hospital was granted to the family of Lane, by King Henry VIII.

It is said that the chancel of the church of North Marston, about four miles south from Winslow, was built with the offerings at the shrine of Sir John Schorne, a very devout man, who was rector of the parish, about the year 1230, and that the place became populous and flourishing in consequence of the great resort of persons to a well which he had blessed. The common people in the neighbourhood of North Marston still keep up the memory of this circumstance by many traditionary stories; and Browne Willis says that in his time there were people who remembered a guide-post standing, which pointed the way to Sir John Schorne's shrine.

The village of WHITCHURCH upon our road, five miles

miles from Aylesbury, had formerly a market on Mondays, granted in 1245, together with a fair on the feast of St. John the evangelist, which has been discontinued for many years.

There was anciently a castle here, built by Hugh de Bolebeck, of which the site is plainly to be discovered, close to the village on the left hand before you enter it from Aylesbury. The hill on which the keep is supposed to have been situated is partly surrounded by a fosse.

The Church is an ancient structure, with a lofty embattled tower. It consists of a nave, side aisle, and a chancel. The arches of the nave are pointed, and supported by octagon pillars. It contains a monument to the memory of Chief Justice Smith, who died in 1652, lord of the manor.

At QUARENDON, about two miles before we reach Aylesbury, the Chapel, on account of the monuments it contains, is entitled to particular notice. It was founded by John Farnham, about 1392, and dedicated to St. Peter. In Elizabeth's reign it was rebuilt by Sir Henry Lee; it has been for many years disused, and is now much dilapidated. The interior is entirely divested of its seats, ceiling, and almost every thing else that could preserve the memory of the holy purpose for which it was originally designed. Even the costly monuments of the Lees, are in a very mutilated state, and hastening to decay. Among these the most remarkable, are those of Sir Anthony Lee, who was knight of the shire, and died about the year 1550, and that of his son Sir Henry Lee, who died in 1611. Upon the first-mentioned monument is the following inscription:

Anthony Lee, a knight of worthy name,
Sire to Sir Henry Lee of noble fame;
Son to Sir Robert Lee, here buried lies,
Whereas his fame and memory never dies;
Great in the fountain, whence himself did roam,
But greater, in the greatness of his son:

His body here, his soul in heaven doth rest,
 What scorn'd the earth, cannot with earth be prest.
 On a black marble tablet fixed against the wall at
 the upper end of the chancel, is this inscription.

1611. Memoria Sacrum.

Sir Henry Lee, knight of the most noble order of the garter, son of Sir Samuel Lee and dame Margaret his wife, daughter to Sir Henry Wiat, that faithful and constant servant and counsellor to the two kings of famous memory Henries the Seventh and Eighth. He owed his birth and childhood to Kent, and his highly honourable uncle Sir Thomas Wiat, at Arlington Castle; his youth to the court and King Henry the Eighth, to whose service he was sworn at fourteen years old; his prime of manhood (after the calm of that blest Prince Edward the Sixth) to the wars of Scotland in Queen Marie's days, till called home by her whose sudden death gave beginning to the glorious reign of Queen Elizabeth. He gave himself to voyages and travels into the flourishing states of France, Italy, and Germany, where soon putting on all those abilities that become the back of honor, especially skill and proof in arms, he lived in grace, and gracing the courts of the most renowned princes of that age, returned home charged with the reputation of a well-formed traveller, and adorned with those flowers of knighthood, courtesy, bounty, and valor, which quickly gave forth their fruit as well in the field to the advantage at once of the two divided parts of this happily united state, and to both those Princes, his Sovereigns successfully in that expedition into Scotland, in the year 1573, when in goodly equipage he repaired to the siege of Edinburgh, there quartering before the castle, and commanding one of the batteries, he shared largely in the honour of ravishing the maiden fort: as also in court, where he shone in all those fair parts which became his profession and vows, honoring his highly gracious Mistress with raising those later olympiads

piads of her court, justs and tournaments (thereby trying and training the courtier in those exercises of arms, that keep the person bright, and steel to hardness that by soft ease rusts and wears) wherein steel himself led and triumphed, carrying away the spoils of grace from his Sovereign, and renown from the world, as the fairest man at arms and most complete courtier of his times, till singled out by the choice hand of his Sovereign mistress for need of his worth, (after the lieutenancy of the royal manor of Woodstock and the office of the royal armoury) he was called up an assessor on the bench of honour among Princes and Peers, receiving at her Majesty's hands the noblest order of the Garter, whilst the worm of time gnawing the root of this plant, yielding to the burthen age, and the industry of an active youth, imposed on him full of the glory of the court, he abated of his sense to pay his better part, resigned his dignity and honour of her Majesty's knights to the adventurous Captain George Earl of Cumberland, changing pleasure for ease, for tranquillity honor, making rest his solace, and contemplation his employment, so as absent from the world present with himself, he chose to lose the friend of public use and action for that of devotion and piety, in which time (besides the building of four goodly mansions) he revived the ruins of this Chapel, added these monuments to honour his blood and friends, raised the foundations of the adjoining hospital, and lastly, as full of years as of honors, having served five succeeding Princes, and kept himself right and steady in many dangerous shocks, and three utter turns of state, with a body bent to earth, and a mind erected to heaven, aged 80, knighted 60 years, he met his long-attended end, and now rests with his Redeemer, leaving much patrimony with his name, honor with the world, and plentiful tears with his friends.

Of which sacrifice he offers his part, that being a sharer in his blood, as well as many of his honorable favors,
and

and an honor of his virtues, this narrowly registereth his spread worth to ensuing time.

WILLIAM SCOTT.

Near this tablet is a magnificent altar monument, supported with surcoats and helmets, and adorned with battle-axes and javelins. On it is the figure of the knight in complete armour, with a surcoat, collar and george of the order of the Garter; his head reposing on an helmet adorned with a plume of feathers; over the effigies of the knight is this inscription:

Fide & Constantia.—Vixit Deo patriæ & amicis . .
Annos.

Fide & Constantia.—Christo Spiritum carnem sepulchro commendavi,

Fide & Constantia.—Scio, credo, expecto mortuum resurrectionem.

Beneath, on a black marble tablet, are the following lines:

If fortune's store, or nature's wealth commende,
They both unto his virtues praise did lende;
The waves abroad, with honour he did passe,
In courtly justs his sovereign's knight he was;
Six princes he did serve, and in the frighte,
And change of state, did keep himself upright:
With faith untaught, spotless and cleare his fame,
So pure that envy could not wrong the same;
All but his virtue now so vain is breath,
Turn'd dust lie here, in the cold arms of death;
Thus fortune's gifts and gentile favors flye,
When virtue conquers death and destiny.

There are no remains of the hospital mentioned in Sir Henry Lee's epitaph. The village of Quarendon has of late years very much decreased in population, containing at present little more than 50 inhabitants.

AYLESBURY.

“ The town of Aylesbury standith on an hill in respect of the ground thereabouts. It is meetly well provided

provided with timber, and in it is a celebrated market. It standith in the highway from Banbury and Buckingham to London. There is domus curia (a town-hall) in the middle of the market place, of late re-edified by —— Baldwin, chief justice of the common pleas, but the king gave the timber of it. The gaol for Buckinghamshire is in this town, There is but one parish church, but that is one of the most ancientest in all those quarters. Quarendon one mile and a half from Aylesbury; also Barton and Alesbury in Chiltern, three miles off by south, with divers other hamlets, were in Alisbury parish. St. Osyth daughter to Fredwald was born in Quarendon. Ther was, as some say, a nunnery or other house of religion, where the parsonage is now, and record yet remaineth that this house should be of the Maturines or fratres orpine Sancta Tumitalis. There was an house of Grey Friars in the town towards the south, founded about the time of Richard II. The lord of Ormond was in time of men's mind counted chief lord of Alisbury, since Bolein, by partition of land. This priory was founded by James, Earl of Ormond, and it was the only one for friars in the county. At the Dissolution it was valued at 2l. 2s. 5d. per annum, and was granted to Sir John Baldwin, lord chief justice of the common pleas."—*Leland's Itinerary*.

Aylesbury is situated near the centre of the county, on a small eminence, in the rich and extensive tract, denominated the *Vale of Aylisbury*. The fertility of this vale is noticed by the old poet Drayton, in his *Poly-Albion*.

Aylesburry vale that walloweth in her wealth,
And (by her wholesome air continually in health)
Is lusty, firm, and fat; and holds her youthful strength.

Aylesbury was originally a strong British town, which maintained its independence till the year 571, when it was reduced by the West Saxons. In the
year

year 600 it became famous as the burial place of St. Osyth, who was born at Quarendon, and beheaded in Essex by the Pagans. Her relics being interred in the church here are said to have performed many miracles ; and a religious house was founded in honour of her memory, said to have been situated on the spot where the parsonage now stands. Her sisters Editha and Eadburga are also mentioned by historians as having contributed to render Aylesbury a place of religious consequence. "Editha" says Camden, "having obtained it of her father Frewald, at the persuasion of certain religious, renounced the world and her husband, and taking the veil acquired the reputation of sanctity in that age so fruitful for saints, with the additional reputation of miracles."

Aylesbury was made a manor royal in the time of William the Conqueror, who parcelled it out under this odd tenure : That the tenants should find litter or straw for the king's bedchamber three times a year if he came that way so often, and provide him three eels in winter, and three green geese in summer.

The town consists of several irregular streets and lanes : and according to the returns made under the population act in 1801, then contained 697 houses, and 3032 inhabitants.

Since Leland's time the town has been very much improved, and most of the houses are now of brick, instead of timber as he describes them. The improvements were principally owing to the munificence of Sir John Baldwin, chief justice in the reign of Henry VIII. who at his own expence erected several public buildings, and procured the assizes to be held here instead of at Buckingham. He also formed a causeway three miles in length, on one of the approaches to the town which was miry and dangerous.

The county goal is still at Aylesbury, but the summer

measures were, in the year 1758, restored to Buckingham as we have mentioned above.

The town of Aylesbury has had from time immemorial a considerable market, the tolls of which in the reign of Edward the Confessor were valued at 25l. per annum. The present market, which is held on Saturday, was granted by charter of Queen Elizabeth, dated 1579. There is no manufacture in the town, and the principal business is lace-making.

The parish Church is a large and handsome Gothic structure, built in shape of a cross, with a low tower, rising at the intersection of the nave and transept. It contains but little that is remarkable. There is a monument to the memory of Sir Henry Lee's lady, who died in 1584, and an effigies in white marble, found among the ruins of the church of Grey Friars, supposed to represent Sir Robert Lee, who died in 1460. The pulpit is ornamented with curious carved work.

Aylesbury was made a borough town by a charter of Queen Mary, in 1554, and at the same time incorporated under the government of a bailiff, ten aldermen, and twelve capital burgesses, in whom was also vested the right of electing two representatives in parliament; but this corporation was dissolved not many years after the grant of the charter, which expired through the neglect of the corporation to fill up the vacancies caused by death. From that time the right of election of members was vested in all the inhabitants paying scot and lot, till the month of June, 1804, when in consequence of the notorious bribery which had been practised in the borough, an act of parliament passed by which the right of election was vested in the freeholders of the three hundreds of Aylesbury, jointly with such persons as had before a right to vote by the customs of the borough.

The constables of the manor of Aylesbury, and
the

the prebendal manor, in whom the municipal government of the town is vested, are the returning officers.

The parish of Aylesbury, including the hamlet of Walcot, is the largest and most fertile in the county.

There was an ancient hospital at Aylesbury, dedicated to St. John, said to have been founded by several inhabitants of the town, in the time of Henry I. In the 24th of Edward III. the building was in ruins, and the endowment, valued only at five nobles, or 1l. 13s. 4d. a year, had been seized by some layperson.

There was another hospital in this town, for lepers, called St. Leonard's, said to have been built and endowed with twenty shillings per annum, by the inhabitants, about the same time as that of St. John, with which it seems to have been afterwards ruined.

The house of grey friars in this town, mentioned by Leland, was founded by James, Earl of Ormond, in 1357. At the Dissolution their revenues were valued at 3l. 2s. 5d. per annum only. The following copy of the surrender of their house, shews with how little reluctance they relinquished the monastic life.

" Forasmooche as wee, the wardens and freers of the house of Saynte Frauncis of Ailesburie, commonly called the grey freers in Aylesburie, in the county of Buckingham, do profoundly consider, that the perfection of Christian livinge dothe notte consiste in domce cremonies, waringe of a grei coote, disgesinge ourself after straunge fashions, dokynge and beckynge, in gurdynge ourselves with a gurdle, full of knotts, and other like papistical ceremonies, wherein wee have been most principally practised and mislet in times paste ; butt the verie true waye to please Godd, and to live a true Christen man, withoute all ypocrisie and fained dissimulation is sincerely declarid unto us by our Master Christe, his evangilists and apostolls, being mynded hereafter to followe

followe the same, conforming ourselfe unto the will and pleasure of our Supreme Hedde under Godde in erthe, the Kynges Majestie, and nott to follow henceforth the supersticious tradicions of our forin-eicall potentat or poore; with mutual assent and concent do submit ourselves unto the merci of our saide Soverayne Lorde, and wyth like mutual assent and concent do surrendre and yelde up into the hands of the same, all our seide howse of Saint Frauncis in Ailesburie, commonly called the Grey-Freers, in Ailesburie, with all lands, tenements, &c. and moost humbly beseching his moost noble grace to dispose of us, and of the same, as best shall stonde with his moost gracious pleasure; and further freely to graunte unto every one of us his licence, under wrytinge and scealle, to chaunge or abytt into secular fassion, and to receve such maner of livinge as other secular prists comonly be preferred into. And we all faithfully shall praye unto Almightye Godde long to preserve his most noble grace wyth increase of moche felicitie and honor: and in witness of all and singular the premises, wee the said warden and covent of the Grey-Freers in Ailesburie, to these presents have putt our covent sceall the first day of October, in the thirtyth yere of the rayne of our most Soverayne Lord, King Henry the Eighth.—Per me Henricum Martyne, Gardianum; per me Gulielmum May, Vice Gardianum;” and five others. —*Lyson’s Magna Britannia.*

The site of the convent was granted to Sir John Baldwin, who made it his country seat. It sustained so much injury, during the civil wars in the reign of Charles I. that it was never afterwards inhabited by the owners.

In the year 1494 John Bedford granted lands to the town of Aylesbury, which now produce 3000*l.* for the repairs of the highways, and relief of the poor.

In 1714, Mr. Henry Phillips erected a grammar
G school

school in Aylesbury, and gave for its endowment, the sum of 5000*l.* with which was purchased the manor of Broughton Abbots, in the neighbouring parish of Bierton.

About five miles from Aylesbury, and two from Wendover, is HALTON, a small village, on the left of our road; the manor-house, which for some years past has been the principal residence of Sir John Dashwood King, is pleasantly situated on the banks of the Grand Junction Canal, sheltered by the Chiltern Hills.

In the parish church is a brass plate, with the effigies of Chief Baron Bradshaw, who purchased the manor of Archbishop Cranmer, and died in 1553.

WENDOVER,

Is an ancient borough town, situated in a low bottom, among the Chiltern Hills, at the entrance of the Vale of Aylesbury. It is a very inconsiderable place, containing, at present, but few well-built houses. It nevertheless sent members to parliament as early as the year 1300. This privilege, after a discontinuance of above 300 years, was restored in the 21st James I. by the exertions of Mr. Hakeville, a barrister of Lincoln's Inn, who had discovered by a search among the ancient parliament writs in the Tower, that the boroughs of Amersham, Wendover, and Great Marlow, had all sent members in former times. Petitions were accordingly preferred in the names of these places; and notwithstanding the opposition of the sovereign, who declared, "that he was troubled with too great a number of burgesses already," the commons directed in favour of the restoration of the privilege.

The right of election is in the inhabitants, house-keepers within the borough, not receiving alms; the constables being the returning officers. The number of voters amounts to about 140.

This borough was formerly the property of the late Earl Verney, during whose possession a circumstance

stance happened which is too remarkable in its parliamentary history to omit. All the houses being then the property of the Earl, and the tenants in general living rent-free on condition of giving their votes to such gentlemen as his lordship should nominate. The electors were prevailed upon in 1768, to accept a present good in preference to the above privilege. A Mr. Atkins, a considerable lace manufacturer in the town, had undertaken by a *coup de main*, to carry the election against the Earl's interest, and conducted his measures with such secrecy, that no opposition was expected until the day of election. At this moment, to the astonishment and confusion of Earl Verney and his agents, Sir Robert Darling, a former sheriff of London, was proposed, and immediately returned by a considerable majority. This disobedience to his lordship's wishes was punished by the voters being forthwith ejected out of their tenements, and obliged to take refuge in huts and tents, where they remained for six months, in all the sorrow of penitence, until a promise of good behaviour in future, so far softened the rigour of this nobleman's resentment, as to suffer them all, with some few exceptions, to repossess their former dwellings. The inhabitants keeping this severe treatment in remembrance, took the first opportunity to retaliate upon his lordship by a repetition of their former conduct, at a subsequent election in 1784, when his lordship having every reason to apprehend that he should lose his seat for the county, offered himself and Mr. Joliffe as their candidates. The electors, well knowing the deranged state of his lordship's private affairs, took the opportunity of again putting up their suffrages to the highest bidder. One individual engaged that two candidates should be chosen against his lordship's interest and influence for 6000*l*. This being settled, a gentleman was employed to go down, and, according to previous appointment, was met by the electors, a mile from the town. They then asked,

“What news from the moon?” He answered, that he had brought from the moon 6000*l.* to be distributed among them, by the borough-agent, and to whom the money was then delivered. The electors being thus satisfied with the golden news from the moon, chose the candidates in opposition, and received their reward.

The market is held on Tuesday; and the inhabitants derive their principal support from lace-making. It is expected, however, that the business of the town will be much increased by means of the branch of the Grand Junction Canal, called the Navigable Freedom. The reservoir of water, which covers about seventy acres, and which was made to supply the canal, is very near the town.

The parish Church, which is situated a quarter of a mile from the town, contains no monuments worthy of notice. There are remains of a chapel in this town, which was dedicated to St. John: it has long been disused.

According to the returns made under the population act in 1801, Wendover then contained 1397 inhabitants.

At ELLESBOROUGH, about a mile south-west from Wendover, on the right of our road, on a round mount near the church, there is an ancient fortification, called Belinus' Castle, and the inhabitants have a tradition that King Belinus resided here; and above this place there is another hill, that still retains the name of Belinesbury Hill.

About three miles west from Ellesborough, are the villages of Great and Little Kimble, anciently written Kunebel. Kymbel is supposed to derive its name from Cunobeline, one of the British kings, for the name in ancient records is written Cunebel. Near this place are many trenches and fortifications, which confirm the opinion that this is the scene of action, where the Britons opposed the Romans in their second expedition under Aulus Plautius, when Cata-

ractacus

ractacus and Togodumnus, the two sons of Cunobeline were slain.

About four miles south-west from Wendover are the villages of Great and Little Hampden, on the right of our road. The manor of Great Hampden was for many generations possessed by the ancient family of Hampden, which became extinct, in the male line, by the death of John Hampden in 1754.

There is a tradition that King Edward III. and the Black Prince once honoured Hampden with a visit, and that whilst the prince and his host were exercising themselves in feats of chivalry a quarrel arose, in which the Prince received a blow in the face, which occasioned him and his royal father to quit the place in great wrath, and to seize on some valuable manors belonging to their host, as a punishment for his rashness; this story gave rise to the following rhimes:

Tring, Wing, and Ivinghoe,
Hampden did foregoe,
For striking of a blow,
And glad he did escape so.

It appears however, by record, that neither the manors of Tring, Wing, or Ivinghoe ever belonged to the Hampden family.

Queen Elizabeth, during one of her progresses, was entertained at Hampden, by Griffith Hampden, Esq. who, for her more commodious access to the house, is said to have cut an avenue through his wood, still called the Queen's Gap.

Hampden House, the seat of the family of Hampden, is situated on the brow of a hill, overlooking a beautiful valley. This mansion contains several family portraits, some of them good paintings; but the names of the persons whom they were intended to represent have not been preserved. Among them, however, a portrait of Oliver Cromwell is readily to be distinguished; he is delineated with a truncheon

in his right hand, his left resting on a helmet, with a boy tying his sash. There is also a portrait of the aged Marquis of Winchester in his robes; and among the other pictures, two sets of copies of Raphael's cartoons at Windsor, one in red chalk, the other painted.

In the Church, which is situated immediately behind this mansion, are several memorials of the Hampden family: the oldest is 1493. The monument of John Hampden, Esq. the last male heir of the family, is ornamented with a medallion, on which is a tree, hung with shields, containing the arms of the Hampdens and their alliances; at the foot of the tree is a basso-relievo, representing the battle of Chalgrave field, in which John Hampden, the celebrated patriot, was mortally wounded: he died about three weeks after the battle, on the 24th June, 1643, and was buried the following day, with his ancestors, in Hampden Church.

At GREAT MISSENDEN, on our road between Wendover and Amersham, there was an abbey of Black Canons, which, according to an old register of the convent, was built by the family of the D'Oileys, but endowed by Sir Thomas Missenden, knight and admiral, about the year 1293, in pursuance of a vow he made on escaping from shipwreck. On the Dissolution the revenues of Missenden Abbey were estimated at 261l. 14s. 6½d. clear yearly value, the site of the abbey, with the manor of Missenden, was granted on lease to Richard Greenaway. In the year 1787, it became the property of James Oldham Oldham, Esq. who has made considerable alterations in the grounds, and wholly rebuilt the house. Browne Willis mentions some arches belonging to the conventual buildings, which appeared to have been part of the chapter house. They have groined roofs, with rich ornaments in the centre. The pillars have scalloped capitals.

About two miles and a half on the left of our road,
and

and three miles north east from Amersham, is CHESHAM, a large market town, in the hundred and deanery of Burnham, pleasantly situated in a fertile valley.

The market is held on Wednesdays, and has existed from time immemorial. The three fairs are on the days mentioned in our list.

According to the returns made under the population act in 1801, this town contained 370 houses, and 1910 inhabitants; of this 887 were stated to be males, and 1023 females; 49 persons only appear to have been employed chiefly in agriculture, and 656 in trade, manufactures, and handicraft.

The principal manufacture carried on in this place is that of coarse wooden ware. A great number of hands are also employed in making shoes for the London warehouses. The female poor are for the most part lace-makers.

The parish Church is a large Gothic structure, containing, in the chancel, several monuments of the family of Skottowe, among which is one from an elegant design by Bacon, for Nicholas Skottowe, Esq. who died in 1798.

The parish of Chesham, comprises the several hamlets of Hundridge, Chartridge and Ashridge, Ashley Green and Billington, Botley, Waterside, and Latimers, which, according to the returns made under the population act in 1801, contained 2059 inhabitants, making the total number of inhabitants in this parish 3967.

At ASHRIDGE, or Esserige, between Chesham and Berkhamstead, there was a college for a rector and 20 brethren or canons, called Bonhommes. It was founded in the year 1243, by Edmund, Earl of Cornwall, son of Richard king of the Romans, in honour of the precious blood of the holy Jesus. The annual value at the Suppression was 416l. 16s. 4d.

The site was for some time kept in the hands of
the

the crown, and the monastery became a royal palace.

The whole of the remains of the conventual buildings were pulled down by the late Duke of Bridgewater.

About three miles south-east from Chesham is CHENEYS, a small village, belonging to the Duke of Bedford, of which Leland in his Itinerary gives the following account :--“The old house of Chenies, is so translated by my Lord Russel that hath that house in right of his wife, that little or nothing of it in a manner remaineth untranslated: and a great deal of the house is even newly set up and made of brick and timber, and fair lodgings be new erected in the garden. The house is within divers places richly painted with antique works of white and black, and there be about it two parks. The manor-place standith at the west end of the parish church, in which on the north side, as in a chapel, be two tombs of the Chaynes, lords of the manor there, and of the small village bearing there name.”

The old manor-house, described by Leland, is yet standing, near the elegant chapel, built by Anne, Countess of Bedford, in 1562, which has become the general burial place of the family. It contains several handsome monuments.

AMERSHAM.

“Agmondesham, alias Amersham, a right pretty market-town of one street, well built with timber, standing in Buckinghamshire, and Chiltern, two miles and a half from Little Missenden. The duke of Buckingham was chief lord of it since the king, now the Lord Russel, by gift, (John Lord Russel so created 1538, 30 Henry VIII), who dwelleth at Cheneis, three miles off by the east. The parish church standeth by north-east towards the middle of the town, and in a chapel on the north side of it lies buried Edmund, father to Sir Robert Brudenel, late
chief

chief justice of the common pleas."—*Leland's Itinerary*.

Amersham or Agmondesham is a market town, of great antiquity, in the hundred and deanery of Burnham, beautifully situated in a vale between woody hills. It principally consists of one long and spacious street, crossed near the centre by a smaller one.

According to the returns under the population act in 1801 the number of inhabitants was then 2130: of these 959 were males, and 1171 females. The number of persons chiefly employed in agriculture was 232; of those employed in trade, manufactures, and handicraft, 1198.

The church is a spacious brick building, covered with stucco, situated nearly in the centre of the town. It consists of a nave, with small aisles, a transept, chancel, and monumental room, and a tower at the west end. The three galleries were fitted up by the late Mr. Drake, who, when this structure was repaired in the year 1778, caused a window of painted glass to be brought from a decayed mansion at Lamer, in Hertfordshire, and set up in the chancel. The painting represents, in the upper compartments, a lamb and a dove, and the figures of faith, hope, and charity, with their proper emblems; beneath, in two rows, are whole length figures of the twelve apostles.

Among the monuments contained in this church there is one in the chancel to the memory of Mrs. Elizabeth Bent, who bequeathed 700*l.* to purchase lands, the income of which she directed to be given to the officiating minister, for preaching sermons and administering sacrament to the poor. She also appropriated the interest of 100*l.* to the use of *godly* widows, who should constantly attend divine service and receive the communion.

In the monument room, which is paved with marble, there is a very magnificent monument, erected to the memory of Montague Gerrard Drake, Esq.
who

who died in 1728, executed by Scheemaker. It is composed with various coloured marble. - Mr. Drake is represented on a sarcophagus, with his head reclined on his left hand. At his feet is a statue of his widow, seated, and near his head is a figure of Hymen weeping, and bearing an inverted torch extinguished. Over the tomb are two cupids. There is also a very handsome monument to the memory of the lady of the late Mr. Drake, said to have been executed by Sir Henry Cheere.

Amersham is a parliamentary borough by prescription. It recovered its right of returning representatives, which had been disused for nearly 400 years, in 1623, through the exertions of William Hakeville, Esq. of Lincoln's Inn. The right of election is in the lords tenants of the borough paying scot and lot ; the number of voters is about 70.—Edmund Waller, the celebrated poet, who was a native of Coleshill in this parish, sat in two parliaments in the reign of King Charles I. as member for the borough of Amersham, and Algernon Sydney, the celebrated patriot, was one of its representatives in 1679.

The market is held on Tuesday, and there are two fairs on the days mentioned in our list. The Market-House, which is said to be the handsomest in the county, was built by Sir William Drake, Knt. who died in 1682.

Great quantities of lace are made at Amersham, and the business of the place has been much increased during the last twenty years by the introduction of the cotton manufacture, which employs upwards of a hundred persons.

The rectory of Amersham, to which a manor is annexed, is said to be one of the most valuable in the kingdom. It formerly belonged to the prior and convent of Brecknock, in South Wales, to whom it was given in 1347, by Humphrey Bohun, earl of Hereford.

A Grammar-School, was founded here by Dr. Robert Chaloner, rector of the parish, who died in 1621, with an endowment of 25*l.* per annum; he also gave 20*l.* per annum, for the maintenance of a divinity lecture at Christ-Church College in Oxford, or for exhibitions for three poor scholars, from his school at Amersham.

William Lord Newhaven, founded a Writing School in this parish in 1728, and endowed it with a rent charge of 20*l.* per annum.

Sir William Drake, Bart. who died in 1669, founded an Almshouse here for six poor widows, not under 60 years of age, who receive four shillings each, weekly, besides clothes and fuel.

About a mile from Amersham is SHARDELOES, the seat of Thomas Drake Tyrwhitt Drake, Esq. the house is delightfully situated on the brow of a hill, overlooking a broad sheet of water, covering thirty-five acres. The apartments contain several good paintings, among which the following are esteemed the best:

A three-quarters portrait of QUEEN ELIZABETH.

A small Landscape with figures: Francis Van Lins, 1741.

Lord Chancellor Hatton: C. Janson.

Four pieces representing a Storm at Sea; Sunset; a Calm, and Sun Rise: by Vernet.

An Engagement at Sea: L. A. Carter.

Two Landscapes with ruins; Views in Italy: Van Bloemen.

An upright Landscape, with Rocks and Waterfalls: Van Diest.

CHALFONT ST. GILES, four miles from Amersham, upon our road, was for some time the residence of Milton, who retired to this village, during the great plague in 1665, and here he finished his admirable poem of *Paradise Lost*. The house in which he resided was built by the Fleetwood family, former proprietors of the manor of Vache in this parish, as appears

appears from their arms over the door : it is now occupied by a farmer.

Sir Hugh Palliser founded a school at Chalfont St. Giles for the education of 20 boys and 20 girls, and endowed it with 30*l.* per annum.

At Gerrard's Cross, in the parish of Chalfont St. Peter's, the next village, the Earl of Portland built a school. It has no endowment, but has always been supported by the Portland family. The duke appoints the master, and allows him a salary for teaching a certain number of boys of this and some of the adjoining parishes.

William Courtenay, who died in 1770, gave a loaf of bread weekly to each of eleven unmarried poor women of the parish of Chalfont St. Peter's, and one to the clerk.

About three miles from Chalfont St. Peter's, on the left of our road, and two miles before we reach Uxbridge, is DENHAM PLACE, the seat of — Way, Esq. a large brick mansion, erected by Sir Roger Hill, who purchased the manor of Denham in 1670. The chapel is fitted up with mantled wainscot and carving in the style which prevailed in the reign of Queen Elizabeth. The windows are ornamented with coats of arms in stained glass. There is a very curious picture in the library, representing the House of Commons, with portraits of the members. The dresses are of the age of Charles II. and it is probable that it was painted in 1679, when Sir Roger Hill was one of the members for Amersham.

In Denham Church there are several monuments, both ancient and modern : among the former are to be noticed some brass plates of the Durdant family ; that of Agnes Jordan, the last abbess of Syon ; an altar-tomb in memory of Sir Edmund Peckham, who died in 1570, with the effigies of himself and his lady, and that of his son Sir Robert Peckham, privy counsellor to Queen Mary, who died in 1569, being then on his travels, and was buried in the Church of
St.

St. Gregorius at Rome ; his heart was deposited at Denham, pursuant to his own request.

Journey from Buckingham to Olney ; through Stony Stratford and Newport Pagnell.

LILLINGSTONE DAYRELL, a small village five miles north from Buckingham, on the left of our road, was the native place of Walter Haddon, doctor of laws, and an eminent scholar of his time, born in the year 1516. He was educated at Eton School, and from thence elected to King's College Cambridge, where he chiefly distinguished himself by writing the purest Latin, which he had acquired from a constant perusal of the best authors, that had flourished in the Augustine age. He also studied the civil law, of which he became a doctor, and read lectures thereon. In 1550 he was professor in this science, and of rhetoric, as also orator of the University of Cambridge.

Being strongly attached to the principles of the Reformation, he acceded to all their measures ; and when Gardiner was sent to the tower, in the reign of Edward VI. he was appointed to succeed him in the mastership of Trinity Hall. He however was soon after chosen president of Magdalen College, Oxford, which he enjoyed till the persecution began in the reign of Queen Mary, when he left his place, and retired to a private house, where he lived till the accession of Queen Elizabeth, who made him master of requests, a place of great profit in those times.— He was also appointed one of the commissioners to visit the universities, and behaved on that memorable occasion in such a manner as will ever do honour to his memory.

He was one of the greatest civilians of his time, and the queen appointed him as her commissioner to the congress at Bruges, when a treaty of commerce was carried on between England and the Netherlands. He lived as a great ornament to the

civil law, till 1571, when he died, and was buried in Christ-Church, London.

The parish Church of Thornton, about four miles from Buckingham, on the right of our road, has been commodiously fitted up by Thomas Sheppard, Esq. lord of the manor, but the antiquary will regret the removal of the ancient monuments. The effigies on brass plates of Robert Ingleton, chancellor of the exchequer, who died in 1472, and his three wives, and that of Jane Ingleton, are all in remarkably fine preservation at present. The effigies in alabaster of John Barton, founder of a chantry at Thornton, who died in 1443, and that of his wife Isabella, now occupy each side of the entrance to the church at the west end.

Richard Cox, a learned divine, was born at Whaddon, a small village about three miles south-east from Thornton, in the year 1749. He received his education at Eton School, from whence he was removed to Cambridge, and in 1519 became a fellow of King's College in that university. His eminence here procured him the honour of being one of those scholars pitched upon by Cardinal Wolsey, to fill up his own foundation at Oxford. In the latter university he was looked upon as one of the greatest scholars of his time, and his poetical compositions were held in the highest esteem. His attachment, however, to the opinions of Luther, who at that time began the Reformation, procured him the displeasure of the ruling powers, and he was thereupon committed to prison; but he was soon released from his confinement through the interest of Archbishop Cranmer, who also promoted him to a valuable living. This emolument he enjoyed till the accession of Queen Mary, when Gardiner and Bonner were determined that he should be burnt; but Cox, who had notice of their design against him, escaped abroad, and retired to Strasburgh in Germany.

During

During his residence here, Mr. Knox, and many other divines, who had been driven from Scotland on account of their religion, came to the same place, and they having an aversion to the rites and ceremonies of the church of England, a violent dispute arose between them and the English exiles, which occasioned so much confusion that the interference of the magistrates was necessary. This was a very imprudent action, especially when it is considered that both parties were exiles from their native country, both were suffering from their attachment to the same cause, and their difference consisted in nothing more than a few ceremonies, no way connected with the essentials of religion.

On the death of Queen Mary, Cox returned to England, and was one of those divines appointed to revise the liturgy. He was soon after made bishop of Ely, which promotion he enjoyed upwards of twenty years. His enemies at court often endeavoured to injure him with the queen, and he as often desired to resign his bishopric; so that at length the forms of resignation were actually drawn up, but as no divine of note could be found to accept of his dignities, he enjoyed them until his death, which happened on the 22nd July, 1581, in the 82nd year of his age.

About a mile and a half from Thornton, on our road, is the village of BECKHAMPTON. In the parish church are some monuments of the Bennet family; among which is that of Sir Simon Bennet, whose principal residence was at Beckhampton, and who had been a great benefactor to the poor, and to the University of Oxford; he was created a baronet in 1627, and died in 1631. This monument was put up by University College, more than 100 years after his decease.

The manor of Beckampton, is now the property of the Marquis of Salisbury. The remains of the old

mansion-house, anciently the seat of the Bennets, have been converted into a farm-house. The great hall is still standing.

Mr. William Elmer, who died in 1652, by his will dated in 1648, founded a free grammar school in this parish. The school-house was finished in 1667. By the founder's will it is directed that the master be a single man, and reside at the school-house. The school is endowed with lands (now let at 43l. per annum) charged with the payment of 40s. per annum each to eight poor men, and 20s. each to eight poor women. Three of the men, and as many of the women, must be inhabitants of Beckampton. Mr. Elmer also gave 5l. per annum to apprentice a child, and some lands for the relief of the poor, the repairs of the highways, &c.

STONY STRATFORD

Stands on the ancient Roman road called Watling Street, and is supposed by Camden to have been the *LACTODORUM* of Antoninus, not only because it stands on the Roman way, but because the name *Lactodorum*, if derived from the ancient British language, has the same signification with *Stony Stratford*, for *Leach* signifies stones, and *Re* and *Ryd* a ford; others have supposed it might be called *Lactodorum* by the Gauls, who came over hither from the old town in Gaul called *Lactorase*; Cæsar having observed, that they gave the same name to towns in which they settled here as those had which they left behind them. Some have supposed the *Lactodorum* to be at Towcester.

Stony Stratford is comprised within two parishes; the east side of the town being in the parish of St. Mary Magdalen, and the west side in St. Giles'.

The market is held on Friday, and there are three fairs on the days inserted in our list. The principal employment of the female inhabitants is lace-making,
but

but the chief trade of the town arises from its thoroughfare situation and the influx of travellers.

According to the returns under the population act in 1801, there were then 106 houses on the east side parish, containing 528 inhabitants; on the west side parish 193 houses, containing 1125 inhabitants.

Stony Stratford has twice suffered severely by fire; the first time was in the year 1736, when 53 houses were burnt down. The second time was on the 6th of May 1742, when 113 houses, and the church of St. Mary Magdalen, which has never been rebuilt, were consumed. The tower of the church, which escaped the flames is yet standing.

The church of St. Giles, on the western side, was rebuilt, with the exception of the tower, by Mr. Hiorne, of Warwick, in 1776. It was formerly a chantry valued at 20l. 2s. 6d. per annum.

A gild at Stony Stratford, founded by John Edy and others, was incorporated in the year 1481.

There are several charities belonging to the town, particularly one of 70l. per annum, for apprenticing children.

At this town King Richard III. then Duke of Gloucester, accompanied by the Duke of Buckingham, seized the person of the young king Edward the Vth, who was then with his attendants at an inn.

The cross erected at Stratford in memory of Eleanor, queen of Edward I. was demolished during the civil wars in the reign of Charles I.

At BRADWELL, about two miles from Stony Stratford, a priory of Black Monks was founded, in the time of King Stephen. by Maneselinus, or Maneselin, baron of Wolverton. It was dedicated to St. Mary, and was at first a cell to Luffield, it was one of the small monasteries granted to Cardinal Wolsey; and at the Dissolution it was valued at 53l. 11s. 2d. per annum. The site of the abbey, of which there are no remains, is occupied as a farm-house.

In the parish Church of Haversham, a village about

four miles from Stony Stratford, there is a beautiful monument, with the effigies of a female, lying on an altar-tomb, under a rich Gothic canopy, supposed to be that of Elizabeth, Lady Clinton, the heiress of the De la Plaanches, the former owners of the manor of Haversham.

At CASTLETHORPE, about three miles to the north of Stony Stratford, on the borders of Northamptonshire, was an ancient castle of the barony of Hanslope, which was taken and demolished by Faulkes de Brent, in 1217, when it was garrisoned against the king by its owner, William Mauduit. The site exhibits vestiges of very extensive buildings.

The village of HANSLAPE, about five miles north of Stony Stratford, on the borders of Northamptonshire, was formerly a market town. The market, which was on Thursday, has been long discontinued. It was granted in 1293 to William Beauchamp, Earl of Warwick.

The parish Church was remarkable for its taper spire, which, together with the lofty tower on which it stood, was above 200 hundred feet from the ground, and afforded a very conspicuous object to a large tract of the surrounding country. This spire was erected in 1409, by Thomas Knight, the third rector, and was destroyed by lightning in the month of June, 1804. It was constructed of stone brought from Ritton in Rutlandshire; and was octagonal and fluted. In the chancel of the church there are some remains of Saxon architecture.

A school was founded at Hanslope for four children, by Lucy Lady Pierrepont. The sum of 60*l.* per annum is received by the parish for the rent of certain estates given by Isabella Barnwell, William Fox, and a person now unknown, which is distributed among the poor on St. Thomas' day.

The inhabitants of this parish are chiefly employed

in the manufacture of lace, which is made here of a very fine quality.

In the parish Church of GREAT LINFORD, a village, about three miles south-west of Newport Pagnell, is a monument of Sir William Pritchard, an alderman of London, who purchased the manor in 1679. He was president of St. Bartholomew's Hospital, where he erected a convenient apartment, at his own expence, for performing the operation of cutting for the stone.

There is an alms-house at Great Linford, founded and endowed by the above-mentioned Sir William Pritchard, for six poor men, who receive 1s. 6d. each weekly. Sir William also founded and endowed a school in this town with a salary of 10l. per annum for a master.

NEWPORT PAGNELL

Gives its name to the hundred and deanery in which it stands. It is an ancient, large, well-built, populous market town, and was formerly a borough. It is bounded on the north by the river Ouse, and the river Lovett runs through the town, dividing it into two unequal parts. The inhabitants are well supplied with water from the first-mentioned river, by means of an hydraulic engine.

The assizes for the county were occasionally held at this town from the reign of Henry III. to that of Henry VI.

The present market day is Saturday. The market was either originally granted or confirmed by charter as early as the year 1270. It was again confirmed in 1333.

According to the returns under the population act in 1801, this town then contained 541 houses, and 2043 inhabitants; the greatest part of whom are employed in the manufacture of lace, of which a greater quantity is here made by hand than in any other town in England.

“ There

“There is scarcely a door to be seen, during summer, but what is occupied by some industrious pale-faced lass ; their sedentary trade forbidding the rose to bloom on their sickly cheeks.” On every Wednesday a market is held for the sale of this article ; and great quantities are sold at the fairs here , of which there are no fewer than six held annually, as may be seen by referring to our list.

During the civil wars in the reign of Charles I. Newport Pagnell, was very early garrisoned by Prince Rupert, but on the approach of the Earl of Essex, shortly after the first battle of Newbury in 1643, it was abandoned by the royal forces, and taken possession of for the parliament, to whom it proved a very useful post during the remainder of the war.

At the time of the Norman Conquest this place was the property of William Fitzansculf, a powerful baron, ancestor of the Paganells or Pagnells, who gave their name to the town. The Pagnells had a castle at Newport, the site of which is still called the Castle Mead, but there were no remains of the building even in Camden's time.

At Newport Pagnell there were two hospitals ; one founded before the year 1240, dedicated to St. Margaret, the other founded in the year 1240, called the New Hospital.

At this place there was also an hospital, founded about the ninth year of Edward I. by John Somery. It was dedicated to St. John the Baptist and St. John the Evangelist, and at the Dissolution was valued at 6l. 6s. 8d. per annum. This hospital was re-founded by Queen Anne, the consort of James I. for three poor men, and three poor women, about 50 years of age. It is now called the Queen's Hospital, and the vicar of Newport for the time being is master.

The parish Church is an ancient and spacious Gothic structure, dedicated to St. Peter and St. Paul,
and

and situated on an eminence that commands an extensive view over the surrounding country. It contains no monuments of any consequence. In the year 1619, the body of a man was dug up in the north aisle of the church with all the hollow parts of the bones filled with lead. The lead that was taken out of the skull is now in the library of St. John's College, Cambridge. It is in two parts and seems to have filled the whole interior of the cranium.

In the church-yard is the following epitaph, written by Cowper the poet, on Thomas Abbott Hamilton, who died July 7, 1788 :

“ Pause here and think, a monitory rhyme
Demands one moment of thy fleeting time :
Consult life's silent clock, thy bounding vein,
Seems it so say, Life here has long to reign ?
Hast thou the vigour of thy youth ? an eye
That beams delight ? a heart untaught to sigh ?
Yet fear ; youth oftimes, healthful and at ease,
Anticipates a day it never sees ;
And many a tomb, like Hamilton's, aloud
Proclaims, prepare thee for an early shroud.

W. Cowper.

There are seven Alms-houses in the church-yard, built and endowed by Mr. John Revis, (citizen and draper in London) in 1763, affording a comfortable asylum to four poor men and three women, who receive 10*l.* per annum each, besides clothes and fuel.

Dr. Lewis Atterbury, the brother of the bishop of Rochester, who was born at Caldust, a hamlet in this parish, bequeathed the sum of 10*l.* per annum, to a school-mistress for teaching 20 girls to write, read, and sew plain-work.

A close in North Crawley was given by a benefactor, now unknown, to the widow of the vicar of this parish ; when there is no vicar's widow living, the profits are appropriated to the apprenticing of poor children.

Francis Atterbury, an eminent divine, was born at

at Milton Keynes, near Newport Pagnell in this county, in the year 1662. He was first educated at Westminster School, from whence he was chosen a student of Christ's Church, Oxford.

While he was at the university he made great progress in the study of literature, and translated into Latin the celebrated poem of Dryden's, called *Absolem and Achitophel*, which gained him great reputation. He also distinguished himself as a controversial writer, by entering the lists against the papists in defence of the character of Luther, and others of the reformers.

He remained in the university till he had taken his last degrees, and on the death of his father, which happened in 1693, he was so earnest to succeed to the same living, that he told the Earl of Nottingham, who was the patron, that if he would bestow it on him he would never look for any higher preferments. The earl, however, rejected his suit, having promised it to Doctor Wotton. This occasioned a difference between the two clergymen that continued during their lives.

During the whole reign of Queen Anne he was in high favour with that princess, as well as the tory party, and after having obtained a variety of preferments, he was appointed to succeed Doctor Sprat, as Bishop of Rochester, and dean of Westminster. Had the queen lived he would have been promoted to the archbishopric of Canterbury, but the arrival of George I. disconcerted all his ambitious hopes; and when he attended at the coronation of that prince, as dean of Westminster, he presented the regalia, which the king refused to accept from him, treating him at the same time with particular marks of disdain.

This so incensed Atterbury, that he opposed every bill brought into the upper house by the ministry; and even proceeded so far as to suspend the curate of Gravesend, because he had suffered the chaplain of a Dutch regiment to preach one Sunday morning

to the soldiers in the church. This conduct of the bishop at last hurried him into such extravagancies, as brought about both the ruin of himself and family.

In 1723 he engaged in a plot to overturn the government, for which Counsellor Laver was hanged and quartered; but the king advised that the bishop, as a protestant and a scholar, should be proceeded against in a more mild and humane manner. For this purpose he was committed to the Tower, and a bill brought into the House of Commons, which passed without opposition, to inflict certain pains and penalties upon him; but when it was brought to the upper house, it met with great opposition, and was at last carried only by a small majority.

By this act he was for ever banished from England, and no person allowed to correspond with him, unless they had an order from the secretary of state, except his daughter and son-in-law. He retired to France, where he lived mostly at Montpellier, till 1731, when he died, and was brought over to England, and interred in Westminster-Abbey.

He was certainly a most excellent preacher, and his sermons are still justly admired.

At LATHURY, a small village about a mile north from Newport Pagnell, there was a grammar school, founded in the reign of Queen Elizabeth, by Anthony Cave, who endowed it with 12*l.* per annum, for a master, to be nominated by Christ-Church College. He also gave two exhibitions, of 6*l.* each, to the scholars, one of whom was to be of Christ-Church. This endowment has unfortunately been lost. The school-house was pulled down in 1698, and the materials used in the repairing of the curate's dwelling.

Lathbury was formerly the seat and property of the Andrews family, one of whom, Sir William, built a large mansion here, and was high sheriff of the county in the year 1608.

OLNEY is a small market town in the hundred and deanery of Newport.

The

The market is held on Mondays, and there are two annual fairs on the days mentioned in our list.

According to the returns made under the population act, Olney then contained 451 houses, of which 444 were inhabited; the number of inhabitants was 2003: of these 372 were males, and 1131 females. Sixty-six persons only were employed in agriculture, and 1928 in trade, manufactures, and handicraft. The manufacture of lace is carried on to a great extent in this town and neighbourhood.

Olney suffered considerably by a fire which happened in May 1786, when 43 houses were burnt down.

The Church is a handsome Gothic building, with a beautiful stone spire, 185 feet in height.

At RAVENSTON, or Raunston, near Olney, King Henry III. about the 39th year of his reign, built and endowed a small monastery of Black Canons, which he dedicated to the Blessed Virgin. This monastery was among those given to Cardinal Wolsey towards the endowment of his colleges, and was valued at the Dissolution in one account at 57l. 15s. and in another at 66l. 13s. 4d. per annum.

At LAVINDON, a village about three miles north-east from Olney according to Dugdale in his *Monasticon*, and Tanner in his *Notitia*, there was an abbey of the Premonstratentian order, built and endowed by John de Bidun, a baron in the time of Henry II. to the honour of St. Mary, and St. John the Baptist. The yearly income at the Dissolution was 79l. 13s. and 8d.

The site together with the abbey-manor was granted in 1544 to Sir Edmund Pickham, and afterwards to Sir Rowland Haywood. There are no remains of the conventual buildings, which, by the report of the commissioners, appear to have been in ruins before the monastery was dissolved.

Lavindon was formerly a market town; a market on Tuesdays having been granted in 1248 to Paulinus

mus Peyvre, together with a fair on the feast of the assumption of the Virgin Mary. The market has been long discontinued ; a small fair, however, is still held annually on the Tuesday before Easter.

The Castle Manor within this parish is so called from an ancient castle of the ancient baronial family of Bidun, of which there are no other remains than a moat and some vestiges of buildings. The site is now occupied by a farm-house.

*Journey from Stoke Goldington to Woburn ; through
Newport Pagnell.*

STOKE GOLDINGTON, is a large village in the hundred and deanery of Newport, situated on the borders of Northamptonshire, four miles and a half from Newport Pagnell, in the road from that town to Northampton. There is no charity-school or alms-house in the parish, nor does it contain any thing sufficiently remarkable to arrest the attention of the antiquary or curious traveller.

About three miles before we reach Newport Pagnell, on the left of our road is GOTHURST, or as it is now called GAYHURST, the property and seat of Miss Wright, only daughter and heiress of the late George Wright, Esq. The manor-house was built in the reign of Queen Elizabeth, and has undergone but little alteration as to its external appearance, the interior however has been completely modernised. Some portraits of the Digby family still remain here, among which is one of Sir Everard, who forfeited his life, for being concerned in that diabolical conspiracy the gunpowder plot ; and another inscribed John Digby, which Mr. Pennant conjectures nevertheless to have been intended for Sir Kenelm Digby in his younger days. In the hall are two finely executed bronze busts of Venetia Lady Digby, wife of Sir Kenelm Digby, so remarkable for her beauty.

The grounds are extensive, and agreeably disposed into spacious lawns, and the prospects of the distant
I country,

country, through openings of the surrounding woods; are remarkably fine.

The manor of Gothurst, according to Domesday Book, was held under Odo bishop of Baieux, by Robert de Nowers, whose family not long afterwards became possessed of it in their own right. It came into the Digby family by the marriage of Maria, the daughter and heiress of William Mulstro, with the above-mentioned Sir Everard Digby, in the reign of James I. In 1704, the estate was purchased with Stoke Goldington, by George Wrighte, Esq. son of Sir Nathan Wrighte the lord keeper.

Gothurst Church, a small neat edifice, stands at a little distance from the mansion; the old church was pulled down in 1725, and the present structure completed in 1728, with a sum of money bequeathed for the purpose by Mr. Wrighte, who purchased the manor. Whole length figures of both father and son, in white marble, are stationed near the entrance of the church, the father is in his robes as lord-keeper, and the son the clerk of the crown, in his official dress, their heads are covered with enormous marble wigs.

Having already described Newport Pagnell and the country adjacent, we shall proceed to NORTH CRAWLEY, about three miles and a half west from Newport Pagnell, on the borders of Bedfordshire, where was an ancient monastery dedicated to St. Firmin, which is mentioned in Domesday Book: but being destroyed or decayed, so long before the general dissolution of monasteries, no notice of it is to be found in any subsequent record.

The parish church is a large and handsome Gothic structure, dedicated to St. Firmin, the patron of the ancient monastery here. The chancel was built by Peter de Guilford, rector of the parish, who died in 1321. Under the east window on the outside is the following inscription:

“ Petrus

“ *Petrus cancellum tibat Firmine novellum,
Ut cum lauderis deo Petri memoreris.*”

There are some memorials of the family of Hacket; the rood loft remains between the nave and the chancel: the screen is of wood richly carved, and decorated with figures of saints, &c. under Gothic canopies.

At TICKFORD, near Newport-Pagnell, there was a cell of Cluniac monks, dedicated to the Blessed Virgin Mary, which was subordinate to the abbey called Marmonstier at Tours in France, to which this priory was given by Fulk Painei or Paganel, in the reign of William Rufus. This, among other alien priories, was seized by King Edward III. during his war with France; and when it was again restored to the church by Henry IV. it was made subject to the Holy Trinity at York.

In the seventeenth year of Henry VIII. it was dissolved, and with several other small monasteries, granted to Cardinal Wolsey, to be settled on one of the colleges, which he was about to build at Oxford and Ipswich. The value was then 126*l.* 17*s.* per annum. When the Cardinal fell into disgrace, it was granted to the use of King's College Oxford, but was afterwards resumed and sold by James I. to one Atkins, a doctor of physick.

The parish church of WYLIEN, about a mile and a half south from Newport Pagnell, is a small brick building, erected in 1680, at the expence of Dr. Busby, formerly master of Westminster school, who gave a library for the vicar, and endowed the vicarage with the great tithes. He appointed 22 lectures on the catechism to be preached annually in this church, and vested the advowson in trustees, directing that they should nominate from time to time, a student of Christ-Church in Oxford, who had been educated at Westminster school.

In the parish of WAVENDON, about five miles from

Newport Pagnell, on Wavendon Heath, are the fuller's-earth pits already mentioned.

In Wavendon Church are some memorials of the family of Saunders of Battlesdon, among which is that of Richard Saunders, Esq. who died in 1639, having had 27 children by four wives.

Mr. George Wells, who died in 1714, and his niece Mrs. Miller, gave the sum of 1000*l.* to this parish, with which a Charity-school was built, and endowed with lands producing a rent of 40*l.* per annum, for instructing, clothing, and apprenticing 10 boys.

About two miles south-west from Wavendon is the parish church of Bow Brickhill, situated on the edge of a steep hill, forming a very conspicuous object, to be seen at the distance of many miles; there is no house near it.

Woburn is about three miles from hence.

*Journey from Stony Stratford to Leighton Buzard;
through Fenny Stratford.*

In the parish Church of Shenley, about two miles and a half from Stony Stratford, on the right of our road, there is a handsome monument, in memory of Thomas Stafford, Esq. of Tottenhoe, who died in 1607. He founded an Almshouse at this place, and endowed it with 35*l.* per annum, for four poor men and two women, the men to be allowed 1*s.* 9*d.* each weekly, and the women; 1*s.* 2*d.*; the sum of 13*s.* 4*d.* to be allowed yearly for the men's, and 8*s.* 6*d.* for the women's cloathing.

At Tottenhoe the adjoining parish, there are quarries of good freestone.

The manor of Water Eaton, in the parish of Bletchley, about two miles and a half south-east from Shenley, was anciently held by the service of keeping a falcon for flight, for the king's use; and for the charges of keeping it the lord was entitled on the day that he carried it to court, to a horse with its equipage, the king's table, with the tressels and table

table cloth : all the vessels with which the king was served that day, and a cask of wine, as soon as the king had tasted it.

The manor of Water Hall in the same parish was held by the service of finding a man on a horse without a saddle, a bow without a string, and an arrow without an head.

The parish Church of Bletchley is a handsome gothic structure, repaired and ornamented at the expence of the late Mr. Browne Willis, who added the pinnacles to the tower, recast the bells, and gave a new font. The internal decorations, however, but ill accord with the style of the building ; the altarpiece and the skreen between the nave and the chancel are Grecian, and the pillars are painted to resemble veined marble.

In the chancel is a remarkable tablet in memory of Dr. Sparke, rector of the parish, who died in 1606, with his portrait very neatly engraved on copper, and inclosed within a wooden case.

There is also a remarkable monument in memory of Mr. Edward Taylor, and his wife Faith, with their portraits sketched in white on black marble, and ornamented with various devices.

FENNY STRATFORD is a small decayed market town, partly in this parish and partly in that of Simpson. The chapel was rebuilt by subscription, principally promoted and procured by the exertions of Mr. Browne Willis. The first stone was laid by this gentleman in 1724, on St. Martin's day, and the chapel was dedicated by him to that saint, because his father died on St. Martin's day, in St. Martin's Lane.

When the chapel was finished, Mr. Willis caused an engraved portrait of his grandfather, to be hung up at the entrance, with the following inscription :

“ In honour of thy memory, blessed shade,
Was the foundation of this chapel laid ;
Purchas'd by thee, thy son and present heir
Owe these three manors to thy art and care ;

For this may all thy race thanks ever pay,
And yearly celebrate St. Martin's day."

Upon the ceiling of the chapel are emblazoned the arms of the nobility and gentry who subscribed towards the building. Within the railing of the communion table are deposited the remains of the celebrated antiquary who may justly be considered as the founder. On his tomb is the following inscription :

" *Hic situs est Browne Willis, Antiquarius, cujus cl. avi æterna memoriæ Tho. Willis, Archiatri totius Europæ celeberrimi, defuncti die Sancti Martini A. D. 1675, hæc capella exiguum monumentum est. Obiit 5^o. die Feb. A. D. 1760. Ætatis Sux. 78. O Christi. Soter, et Judex huic peccatorum primo misericors et propitius esto.*"

Fenny Stratford had from time immemorial a market on Mondays, which was confirmed by charter in 1609. In 1665 this small town suffered considerably in its population by the plague, of which 139 persons died. The inns were shut up, and the roads through the town, for some time, turned into another direction. This misfortune proved fatal to the market, which has never flourished since, and has now been for many years unattended, if not wholly discontinued.

There are however four annual fairs, on the days mentioned in our list.

There was anciently a gild or fraternity at Fenny Stratford, dedicated to Saint Margaret and St. Catherine, which was founded in 1494, by Roger and John Hebbes. It consisted of an alderman, two wardens, and an indefinite number of brethren and sisters. The brotherhood house is now the Bull inn.

The Swan Inn in Fenny Stratford had the same name in 1474.

The chief manufacture of the town and neighbourhood

hood is white bone lace. The soil is excellent for all sorts of grain, and there are some very rich grazing land in the hamlet, which was inclosed by act of parliament past in 1790.

The small river Lowfield, which runs at the bottom of the town, is well supplied with fish.

At **NEWTON LONGUEVILLE**, about three miles and a half to the south-west of Fenny Stratford, there was an alien priory of Cluniac monks, belonging to the abbey of St. Faith, at Longueville in Normandy, to which it was given by Walter Giffard, the second earl of Buckingham in the time of Henry I. This cell was seized by the king during the French war, and in the 19th year of Henry VI. was granted to the warden and scholars of New College, Oxford, in which the property still continues.

At the east end of the chancel of the parish church, on the outside, is a figure of St. Faith, to whom the priory was dedicated.

Two miles from Fenny Stratford is **LITTLE BRICKHILL**, now an inconsiderable village, formerly a place of more consequence, and more populous than Great Brickhill, the adjoining parish, having formerly been a market and an assize town. The market was held on Thursdays, and was granted by charter dated in 1228. A fair was at the same time granted at the festival of St. Mary Magdalen. By subsequent charters four other fairs were granted. The assizes for the county appear to have been held at this town from a very early period. Between the years 1561 and 1620 the names of 42 executed criminals appear among the burials in the parish register. The assizes were held here for the last time in 1638.

The market of Little Brickhill has been long discontinued; of late years however its population has considerably increased; and according to the returns under the population act in 1801, there were then 84 houses, and 385 inhabitants.

There is nothing remarkable at Great Brickhill.

Journey

Journey from Bicester to Pring; through Aylesbury,

We enter the county of Buckingham about five miles from Bicester, and on the right of our road, is LUDGERSHALL, or Litthershall, where there was anciently an alien priory or hospital, subordinate to the great hospital of Santing Field, near Whitsand, in Picardy, to which three hides of land had been granted for that purpose by King Henry II. This was afterwards given by Henry VI. to Trinity College, Cambridge.

The manor of BORSTAL, about three miles from Ludgershall, was given, according to tradition, by King Edward the Confessor to one Nigel, for his services in slaying a wild boar, which infested the forest of Burnwood, to be held by carriage or service of a horn, and that the mansion-house built by him was called Boarstall, in memory of the slain boar. The present proprietor is Sir John Aubrey, whose family have been in possession for more than a century. Sir John Aubrey has a very ancient horn, supposed to be the same by which this manor was originally held. The horn, supposed to be that of a buffalo, is of a dark brown colour, variegated and veined like tortoise-shell. It is two feet four inches in length, in the convex bend; the diameter of the larger end is three inches; at each end it is tipped with silver gilt, and has a wreath of leather, by which it is hung about the neck. There is a representation of this horn in the third volume of the *Archæologia*.

During the civil wars in the reign of Charles I. Boarstall House was garrisoned for the king in 1644. In the spring of this year it was evacuated by the king's troops, and the fortifications destroyed; it was then seized by the parliament forces, and again reduced for the king by Colonel Gage, who left a garrison there. In 1645 it was attacked by General Skippon, and afterwards by Fairfax himself, without success. The next year, however, it was surrendered after a siege of 18 hours, by the governor Sir Charles

Charles Campion, who was afterwards slain at Colchester.

A large gateway, with turrets at the corners, is all that now remains of Boarstall House.

The manor of Brill, about two miles east from Boarstall, was part of the ancient demesnes of the crown, and it is said that the Saxon kings had a palace here, which was a favourite residence of King Edward the Confessor. King Henry VI. kept his court at Brill in 1160, attended by Thomas-a-Becket, his chancellor, and again in 1162. In 1203 Walter Borstard, the chaplain of King John, was appointed keeper of the royal palace at Brill. Henry III. kept his court here in 1224.

During the civil wars in the reign of Charles I. a garrison was established here by the king, of which Sir Gilbert Gerrard was appointed governor, and a party of the parliamentary army, under the command of Hampden, the celebrated patriot, having made an attack on the place, was repulsed with considerable loss. It was soon afterwards, in the spring of the year 1643, evacuated by the royal garrison.

There was anciently a Hermitage at Brill, dedicated to Saint Werburgh; which was given by Henry III. in 1252, with an endowment of lands to the canons of Chetwode, on condition of their finding a chaplain to officiate in the chapel of the hermitage, and another to officiate in the chapel of the king's palace, at Brill.

WOTTON HOUSE, in the parish of Wotton-under-Bernwood, about two miles east from Ludgershall, has been from time immemorial the seat of the Grenvilles. It is at present the occasional residence of Earl Temple. It was built in 1705, after the model of Buckingham House. The staircase and hall were painted by Sir James Thornhill, for which he received 1000*l.* annually, for three years. The grounds have abundance of fine wood, and are well watered.

The

The chapel, or south aisle of the parish church of Wotton, was built by William de Grenville and Mary his wife by licence from the bishop of Lincoln, in 1343. It contains several monuments of this family, and the windows have been ornamented with the arms and quarterings of the families of Grenville, Temple, and Chancel, executed in stained glass by Eginton. The church has been completely repaired, and a stone spire erected by the Marquis of Buckingham.

In the parish church of QUANTON, a village about two miles and a half on the left of our road, and seven miles from Aylesbury, is a monument to the memory of the learned orientalist Richard Brett, one of the translators of the bible, and a fellow of Chelsea College, who was rector of Quanton from the year 1595, till his death, which happened in 1637. There is also the tomb of John Spencer, rector of this parish, who died in 1485, with his effigies on a brass plate in fine preservation; and several monuments of the Dormers and Pigots, among the former is that of Robert Dormer, one of the justices of the court of common-pleas, who died in 1726, with his effigies in white marble in his robes, and that of his lady in the attitude of a mourner. The monument of Sir Richard Pigot, who died in 1685, is a massy piece of sculpture, from a design of Leoni. In the chapel on the north side of the church is the monument of Richard Winwood, Esq. (son of Sir Ralph Winwood, King James II's secretary) who died in 1663, he bequeathed the sum of 200*l.* to build eight alms-houses at this place for four widowers, and endowed them with lands in the parish for the payment of 2*s.* a week to each, and providing them with gowns, &c.

ERNORPE, or Eythorp, in the parish of Waddes-ton, the next village on our road, about six miles from Aylesbury, is the property of the Earl of Chesterfield, but he is seldom here. It was formerly the seat

seat of Sir William Pelham, who distinguished himself during the wars in the Netherlands, and died at Flushing in 1587. An apartment, called the armoury, in this house, has a sloping roof, ornamented with red and white roses ; at the base of the rafters are angels bearing shields, with arms of the family of Dormer and their alliances. It is hung round with a variety of ancient armour and accoutrements. Eythorpe became the property of the Dormers in the reign of Queen Elizabeth. From the Dormers it passed by marriage to the Stanhopes.

In the parish Church of Waddesdon is the monument of Guy Carleton, a veteran soldier, who died June 1, 1608, aged 94. On his monument is the following inscription :

“ Whilst I was young in wars I shed my blood,
Both for my king and for my country's good :
In older years my care was chief to be
Soldier to him who shed his blood for me.”

At UPPER WINCHENDON, about a mile and a half from Waddesdon, was the principal residence of Thomas Lord Wharton, who was in 1706 created Viscount Winchendon, Earl and afterwards Marquis of Wharton. This nobleman enlarged the mansion-house, and made it a very magnificent mansion. The gardens were esteemed superior to any then in the country, and were particularly noted for a fine collection of orange trees. Philip, Lord Wharton, who succeeded his father in his title and estates, was in 1718 created Duke of Wharton. Granger relates an anecdote of the facetious Colley Cibber, that riding with the duke in his coach at Winchendon, where the soil is a remarkably stiff clay, and the roads very deep and heavy, thus addressed himself to his noble companion : “ Report says that your grace is running out of your estates, I am sure 'tis impossible for you to *run* out of this.”

The strange inconsistency of the duke's character,
has

has been finely described by Pope in his *Moral Essays*:

“ Wharton, the scorn and wonder of our days,
Whose ruling passion was the lust of praise :
Born with whate’er could win it from the wise,
Women or fools must like him, or he dies.
Though wondering senates hung on all he spoke,
The club must hail him master of the joke.
Shall parts so various aim at nothing new ?
He’ll shine a Tully and a Wilmot too ;
Then turns repentant, and his God adores
With the same spirit that he drinks and whores ;
Enough if all around him but admire,
And now the punk applaud, and now the friar.
Thus with each gift of nature and of art,
And wanting nothing but an honest heart ;
Grown all to all, from no one vice exempt,
And most contemptible to shun contempt :
His passion still to covet general praise ;
His life, to forfeit it a thousand ways ;
A constant bounty, which no friend has made ;
An angel tongue, which no man can persuade ;
A fool, with more of wit than half mankind,
Too rash for thought, for action too refin’d ;
A tyrant to the wife his heart approves,
A rebel to the very king he loves ;
He dies sad outcast of each church and state :
And, harder still, flagitious, yet not great.”

The Duke of Wharton being attainted of treason, for acting in favour of the Pretender, his estates were confiscated, and this sold to Sarah, Duchess of Marlborough. The house and gardens, after a very short-lived fame, became dilapidated and neglected. The former was pulled down in 1760.

In the parish Church of Upper Winchendon is the tomb of Sir John Stodel, a vicar of the parish, with his effigies in brass remarkably well preserved.

At St. LEONARD’S, a hamlet of the parish of Aston Clinton,

Clinton, about four miles from Aylesbury, is an ancient chapel, said to have been anciently a chantry chapel to the abbey of Missenden. It contains among other monuments that of General Cornelius Wood, an officer, who distinguished himself in the reign of Queen Anne, and who died in 1712. It is ornamented with a bust of the general in white marble, surrounded with military trophies.

The chapel is endowed with an estate vested in ten trustees, who have the appointment of the minister.

In the parish Church of DRAYTON BEAUCHAMP, about two miles north-east from Aston Clinton, are some ancient memorials. One a brass of one of the Cheynes, to whom the manor formerly belonged. It is dated 1375, and has the effigies of the defunct in armour, with a mail gorget. It most probably belongs to Thomas Cheyne, to whom the manor was granted by King Edward III. whose shield-bearer he was.

In the chancel is a magnificent monument of white marble, by Woodman, in memory of Lord Newhaven, with an upright figure of the deceased in a large flowing peruke. Lady Newhaven is represented sitting. In the north window of the nave are eight of the apostles in stained glass.

IVINGHOE is a small market town, in the hundred of Cotslow, and deanery of Nunesley, situated near the ancient Ikenild Street. A market at this town, on Thursdays, was originally granted to Henry de Blois, bishop of Winchester in 1318. The present market is held on Saturday ; but the market is so poorly attended that it may almost be said to be discontinued: a circumstance which probably arises from the barrenness of the country immediately surrounding the town, which has retarded those improvements that might otherwise have been expected in a place of so considerable antiquity. The fair on St. Margaret's day, was granted in 1297, and another

ther on the assumption of the Virgin Mary by the charter of 138. The present fairs are on the 6th May, and 17th of October.

Ivinghoe Church is a handsome Gothic structure, containing some memorials of the family of Duncombe, who had a seat in this parish called Barley-End House, now the property and residence of their representative Mrs. Lucy. On the north side of the chancel is an ancient altar tomb, upon which are the effigies of the deceased, said to have been that of a brother of King Stephen. Brown Willis supposes it to be the tomb of Peter Chaceport.

Berrystead House, now a farm-house, is said to have been the seat of Henry de Blois, bishop of Winchester, brother of King Stephen.

About a quarter of a mile from Ivinghoe is a very fine wood, remarkable for its wood and high situation, as it is seen at a very great distance, from Portsmouth, and from out of Derbyshire, and at 150 miles distance. The wood and hill were the property of the Duke of Bridgewater. A quarter of a mile from the hills is one of the four old Roman roads, called the Ikenild Way, which runs throughout the kingdom from Portsmouth to Timmouth Avon. About 400 yards from this is a surprising declivity, between two hills, about three hundred yards in length, and 40 yards wide. On both sides of the hills is a fine green pasture, as is the bottom, reported to have been one of the Roman encampments, as several old coins are found on the spot, and in the neighbouring fields, in fine preservation. About two miles from Ivinghoe is a place called Eoburn, belonging to John Sear, Esq. of Tring Grove. Here is said to be the original source of the river Thames: there are two springs, which divide within ten yards of each other, one running due east and the other west. Mr. Sear has made a fine canal for a pleasure-boat, one mile in length.

At ST. MARGARET'S, a populous hamlet, in the parish

fish of Ivinghoe, a Benedictine nunnery was founded by Henry de Blois, bishop of Winchester, above-mentioned, about the year 1160, to the honour of St. Margaret and Saint Nicholas, and known by the name of the monastery of Muresley. At the Dissolution there were nine nuns in this place, yet the revenue was no more than 14l. 3s. 1d. per annum.

The site, with the manor of Muresley, was granted to Sir John Dance. The building was about four years ago almost entire. The parlour and hall appear to be of the age of Henry VII.

In the chancel of the parish church of EDLESBOROUGH, three miles north-east from Ivinghoe, are some brasses of a large size, among which is that of Sir John Swynshide, rector of Edlesborough, who died in 1390. In the north chancel, or Rufford's aisle, are some tombs of the family of Rufford.

The Church is a handsome Gothic structure, with a small spire, and being situated on an insulated hill forms a very conspicuous object; the hill appears to have been an ancient fortress.

Journey from Thame to Aylesbury.

At CRENDEN, or Long Crenden, about two miles north from Thame, on the left of our road, there was an abbey or priory for regular canons of the order of St. Augustine, called Noctell or Nuttley. It was built and endowed by Walter Giffard the second earl of Buckingham and Ermengard his wife, in the year 1162. It was dedicated to the Virgin Mary and St. John the Baptist, and at the Dissolution the society consisted of 18 monks, whose revenues was 437l. 6s. 8d. per annum.

Richard Ridge, the last abbot, had a pension of 100l. per annum, assigned him by the crown in lieu of his office. The site of the abbey was granted to Sir William Paget. It is now the property of Mr. Reynolds, a farmer, who resides in the remains of the abbey house.

There is an engraved view of the ruins of the abbey by Buck, but a considerable part of them has been since taken down ; the ancient roof of the hall, which was 68 feet long by 24 feet, was removed by the Bertie family to Chesterton in Oxfordshire ; its place having been supplied by a common tiled roof, this room is now used as a barn. On the inside of the east wall is a corbel table, in that style of architecture which prevailed in the time of Henry III. richly ornamented with foliage. The small remains of the cloisters are now a pig-stye.

Round the cornice of an ancient room in the farmhouse is the Stafford knot, several times repeated, with the following inscription, in black letter :

En lui Plaisance.

In the parish church of Crendon is a monument of Sir John Dormer, who died in 1626.

WORMENHALL, a village about three miles west from Long Crendon, had formerly a market on Thursdays, granted in 1304, together with a fair on the feast of St. Peter and St. Paul, to John de Rivers, lord of the manor.

John King, Esq. son of the bishop of Rochester, founded an alms-house at this place in 1675, for four poor women, and six poor single men, who receive 8s. 4d. each monthly from the donation of the founder.

In the Parish Church of CHILTON, a village about two miles north of Long Crendon, are some monuments of the family of the Crokes ; that of Sir John Croke, who died in 1608, is much ornamented, and has his effigies in armour. Sir George Croke, the celebrated lawyer, and famous for his zealous opposition to the tax of ship-money in the reign of Charles I. was a native of Chilton, and lies buried in the church without any memorial. He was the son of Sir John Croke above-mentioned.

In the parish Church of ASHENDON, about two miles north-east from Chilton, there is an ancient figure

figure of a crusader, under a flat arch, rudely ornamented with foliage, which according to tradition is the tomb of Sir John Bugden, of Policote. Mr. Brown Willis says that he was told by the minister of the church that the tomb was that of John Buckton, who gave the manor of Little Policote to Lincoln College. But it was evidently a layman that was here interred, and from the chevron on the shield appears to have been one of the Stafford family, who were anciently Lords of Great Policote.

At **CHERSLEY**, about two miles from Long Creden, and seven miles south-west of Aylesbury, the ancient Britons were defeated by Cerdic and Cynric, and is the place mentioned in the Saxon chronicle under the name of *Cerdiceslegh*.

At **DINTON**, about four miles from Aylesbury, on the left of our road, is the seat of Mr. Goodall, an ancient mansion, for many years the residence of the Maynes, the ancient owners of the manor. Mr. Goodall has a collection of extraneous fossils, from Dinton and its neighbourhood, where they are found in great abundance; and some antiquities discovered in a ploughed field, near the road to Thame, the most remarkable of which is a small thin green glass, of a conical form, which is engraved in the 10th volume of the *Archæologia*.

The south door of Dinton Church has a very curious Roman arch.

Among other curious things in Mr. Goodall's possession is one of the shoes of John Bigg, an eccentric character, who was a native and inhabitant of this parish, and commonly called the Dinton Hermit. In the earlier part of his life he was clerk to Simon Mayne, the regicide, who acted as a justice of the peace, for many years before his death, which happened in 1696. He lived in a cave under ground; his method of mending his cloaths, which he never exchanged, was by sewing fresh pieces of cloth or leather, over the decayed parts. The shoe above-men-

tioned has been thus mended till the leather became more than tenfold its original thickness; the fellow to it is in the Bodleian Library, at Oxford.

About two miles before we reach Aylesbury, is HARTWELL HOUSE, a spacious old mansion, part of which was altered and modernized by Sir William Lee, father of the present baronet. The State Gallery remains with its ancient furniture, velvet chairs, and gobelin tapestry. There are a few portraits in the Dining Room, and among them a fine whole length of Sir John Suckling, which was supposed by Sir Joshua Reynolds to have been painted by Cornelius Jansen. There are also some views of the house, which were taken before the alterations.

Hartwell Church was rebuilt by the present baronet's father, Sir William Lee, in imitation of the Gothic style, with two octagon towers. The roof is richly ornamented with tracery.

*Journey from Prince's Risborough to Uxbridge;
through High Wycombe and Beaconsfield.*

PRINCE'S RISBOROUGH is a small market town in the hundred of Aylesbury, and deanery of Wendover; its market was granted by King Henry III. who gave the townsmen many privileges, such as being excused from attendance at assizes and sessions, exemption from toll, &c. The market is still held on Saturday, and there is a fair on the day mentioned in our list.

The manor of Prince's Risborough was once the property of Edward the Black Prince, who had a palace here, supposed to have stood within the site of a spacious moat now dry, which is a field adjoining the church yard.

The impropriator of the rectory of Prince's Risborough is obliged (according to the conditions of a bequest made by some former possessor, said to have been a maiden lady) to provide annually a fat bull to be killed, and a boar to be made into brawn,
four

four bushels of wheat and four bushels of malt, to be made into bread and beer; the whole of which is to be distributed among the parishioners at Christmas.

On the top of a hill, near Prince's Risborough, there are the traces of a camp; and the road that goes by it is now called Acknel Way, which is evidently a corruption of Ikeneld Way. At the foot of the hill a coin of the Emperor Vespasian was found, and it is said that 13 counties may be seen from the top of it.

MONK'S RISBOROUGH lies a little to the north of Prince's Risborough. It is said that there was formerly a cell of Benedictine Monks at this place, subject to the monastery of Christ-Church in Canterbury, to whom the manor had been given in 991, by Æschwyn, bishop of Dorchester.

Not far from Monk's Risborough there is a high steep chalky hill, on the south west side of which there is the figure of a cross, which is here called Whiteleaf Cross, from Whiteleaf, the hamlet in which it stands. It is formed by trenches cut into the chalk, about two feet deep, in the same manner as the horse on White Horse Hill in Berkshire, and like that is supposed to be a trophy of the Saxons. The perpendicular line is about one hundred feet long, and the transverse line about 70. The breadth of the perpendicular line at the bottom is about 50 feet, but grows gradually narrower, and at the top is not more than twenty. The breadth of the transverse line is about twelve feet, and the whole is supported on a triangle, intended to represent the flight of steps gradually decreasing, on which it was usual to erect crosses in the public ways; such crosses and steps, being also represented on some of the coins of the northern nations, and in subscriptions to charters granted in the early ages of Christianity by our Saxon ancestors.

The parish Church of BLEDLOW, about three miles south-west

south-west from Prince's Risborough, on the borders of Oxfordshire, is a specimen of the earliest Gothic architecture, and contains some memorials of the family of Crosse, who had a seat in the parish, and held the rectorial manor under the provost and fellows of Eton College, to whom the rectory was appropriated in 1444.

The church stands near the edge of a rock, under which, in a deep glen, overgrown with trees, issue some transparent springs which contribute to form a pond called the Lyde. These springs are said to wear away the rocks, which has occasioned the following local proverb :

“ They who live and do abide,
Shall see Bledlow Church fall into the Lyde.”

At BRADENHAM, about two miles from West Wycombe, there was for many years a noble seat of the Windsors. In 1566 Queen Elizabeth was most sumptuously entertained here, by Edward Lord Windsor, whose kinsman, Miles Windsor, spoke an oration on the occasion, which was highly commended by her Majesty. The same Lord Windsor, by his last will directed an hospital to be founded at Bradenham for six poor men, the rector of the parish to be master, and to have 20 marks a year, as an augmentation to his living, and he requested that letters patent might be procured, to incorporate the said rector, and poor men, by the name of the master and brethren of the hospital of Bradenham. His executors appear to have neglected their trust with respect to this hospital ; as the foundation never took place.

BRADENHAM HOUSE was built by William Lord Windsor, the second of that title, but it has not a very ancient appearance, having undergone various alterations.

The parish Church contains nothing worthy of note, excepting the tomb of Joanna Mitchin, who died at the age of 103.

West

WEST WYCOMBE is a large village, about two miles from High Wycombe, on our road. It was anciently called Haveringdon or Harringdon. Sir John Dashwood King, Bart. is the present lord of the manor.

The parish Church is situated on the summit of a steep hill, at a small distance above the village, within the site of a circular entrenchment. It was rebuilt in the year 1763, by Lord le Despenser, but the tower and chancel are parts of the ancient pile.—The present structure is in the Grecian style of architecture, and the ceiling is painted with mosaic ornaments. There are five forms in lieu of pews, and the pulpit and desk are mahogany arm chairs, with a reading desk before them. The chancel is paved with marble, and embellished with a painting of the Last Supper, on the ceiling. The altar is of carved oak. The windows are glazed with stained glass and small scripture pieces. The chancel contains monuments of Sir Francis Dashwood, and one of the Darrel family.

Near the east end of the church is a large hexagonal building without a roof, called the Mausoleum. It is constructed of flint, and has a bridge and cornice, supported by Tuscan pillars, with recesses for monuments, and smaller niches for the reception of urns and busts. On the cornice is this sentence: "TO GEORGE DODDINGTON, BARON OF MELCOMBE REGIS," whose legacy to Lord le Despenser, for the purpose of erecting a monument to his memory was the cause of the building of this Mausoleum.

In the centre of this singular building is a beautiful marble altar monument, under a canopy, supported by four stone pillars. On one side are inscribed the words *Mors Solamen Misericordie*, and on the other, "May this Cenotaph, sacred to the virtues and graces that constitute female excellence, perpetuate the memory of SARAH Baroness le Despenser, who finished a most exemplary life, January the 19th 1769."

In one of the recesses there is an elegant monument

ment of statuary marble, which records the memory of the husband of the above lady, Lord le Despenser, who was chancellor of the Exchequer in the year 1762. He died in the year 1781, "revered, regretted, and beloved by all who knew him." In another recess is a small urn, containing the heart of Paul Whitehead, the poet, who bequeathed it as a legacy to his noble friend Lord le Despenser. It was deposited in the mausoleum, with much solemnity, on the 16th of August 1775, several months after Mr. Whitehead's death; the urn is thus inscribed:

"Paul Whitehead, Esq. of Twickenham, obiit,
December 30, 1774.

Unhallowed hands this urn forbear :
No gems nor orient spoil,
Lie here conceal'd, but what's more rare,
A heart that knew no guile."

The mausoleum also contains the monuments of Lady Mary Fane, and Mary King, second and third wives of Sir Francis Dashwood, Bart. and in one of the recesses, the bust of Thomas Thompson, M. D.

In the parish Church of HITCHENDON, a village about two miles north of High Wycombe, are several ancient tombs, with basso-relievos, supposed to have been intended for some of the descendants of Sunar de Montfort, Earl of Leicester, who assumed the name of Wellesbourn. The arms on the shields are,
1. Gules a lion rampant with two tails, argent devouring a man child, Mountfort Earl of Leicester.
2. Argent a lion rampant devouring a child, within an orle of cross crosslets, sable Mountfort of Warwickshire.
3. Bendy of ten, or and gules Mountfort of Bel-desert.
4. Gules a griffin segreant devouring a child or—a chief checky, or and azure over all a bird Ermine, Wellesbourn. One of the figures is very fair, and represents a crusader, in a coat of mail.—Another represents an armed man, with a sword in one

one hand and a cross in the other. According to tradition the descendants of Simon de Montfort resided in this parish, at a house called Wreck Hall, in the windows of which were formerly some of the coats of arms of the family. Under an arch in the south wall of the chapel, in which are the above-mentioned tombs, lies an emaciated figure in a shroud on an altar tomb, the shields on this monument are all plain.

WYCOMBE PARK, the seat of Sir John Dashwood King, Bart. was built by Sir Francis Dashwood, and much enlarged and highly decorated by his son Lord le Despenser. It is a spacious building, situated on a gentle eminence. The south or principal front consists of a colonnade, and loggia over it, painted in fresco, and filled with busts and statues: It extends to the length of three hundred feet. The north front is decorated with four three quarter columns, supporting a pediment rising from a rusticated base. The principal apartments are ornamented in a very magnificent manner. The cornice of the dining room is curiously carved and gilt, the ceiling represents the council of the gods, and the door frame is formed of variegated marble. This house contains a large collection of pictures, most of them good copies from the old masters.

The gardens were designed by Lord le Despenser, and are beautifully situated and laid out, but somewhat too crowded with temples, statues, and vases: many of these have however been lately removed, and the grounds much improved, by Mr. Repton. The small river Wycombe which rises in this parish, winds through the park, and supplies a beautiful lake, which is adorned with several islands, planted with forest trees, whose bold and towering branches, flourish in luxuriant wildness.

The manor of West Wycombe, from very early times belonged to the bishops of Winchester. It was surrendered to the crown by Bishop Poinet, and was then

then given by King Edward VI. to the Protector Somerset. Queen Mary restored it to the see of Winchester: but on deprivation of the bishop, it was resumed by the crown and in 1622, given to Sir Robert Dormer. Charles Dormer, second earl of Caernarvon, sold it to Thomas Lewis, alderman of London, who in 1698 conveyed it to his brothers-in-law, Sir Samuel Dashwood and Francis Dashwood.

HIGH OR CHIPPING WYCOMBE,

Is a large market-town, situated within the hundred of Desborough, and the deanery to which it gives its name. It stands on the banks of a rivulet in a valley, as its name implies, and if not the largest town in the county, is certainly the most handsome.

From the many antiquities found in the neighbourhood of this town, it is supposed to have been a Roman settlement. In the grounds at Loakes, now Wycombe Abbey, in the year 1724, a tessellated pavement was found in a meadow. It was about nine feet square, with the figure of a wild beast in the centre, and the borders curiously ornamented with small square stones, artificially composed, of different colours. There were some coins discovered with it, of Antoninus Pius, and Marcus Aurelius. Several other coins have been found in the neighbourhood, and also part of a Roman vessel, in digging a cellar, in the High Street.

There is no doubt that this town was early inhabited by the Saxons; for, in addition to the circumstance of its being called *chipping*, which is the Saxon term for *market*, we are informed in Langley's History of the Hundred of Desborough, that there is a strong double entrenchment, in the vicinity of the town called Desborough Castle, where foundations of buildings, broken tiles, and bricks, have been dug up, and also a stone or window frame of a similar shape to those up in ancient churches. These remains were in the innermost part of the fortification,

tion, which is but a short distance from the main road, and was probably designed to check the incursions of the Danes.

Previous to the Conquest, Wycombe was considered as the property of Edith, Edward the Confessor's Queen. William the Conqueror bestowed it upon Robert D'Oyley, one of his followers. In 1203 the greater part of the manor, which afterwards acquired the name of Bassetsbury, was granted to Alan Basset, Lord Bassett of Wycombe, from whose family it passed by a female heir to the Despensers. In the reign of Edward IV. it was granted to the dean and canons of Windsor, and their successors, by whom it has been leased to various families.—The present lessee is Sir John Dashwood King, Bart.

Wycombe is a very flourishing town, consisting of one large and spacious street, which branches out into several small ones. The Town-hall, situated in the High-street, is a brick structure, on thirty-four stone pillars, built in 1757, at the expence of John Earl of Shelbourne. In this hall are held the sessions for the town, and other public meetings.

The Church is a handsome structure of stone, built in the year 1273, and dedicated to All Saints. It consists of a nave, side aisles, and chancel. The tower is at the west end, 108 feet high, and adorned with roses and portcullises; this part of the building was built in 1529: but its pinnacles, and other ornaments, were added by the Earl of Shelbourne above-mentioned about 1755. Over the communion table is a large painting, by Mortimer, presented to the church by Dr. Bates of Little Missenden. It represents *St. Paul converting the Druids to Christianity*, and contains fifteen figures, with a little child, and a dog, grouped with admirable skill. In the chancel is the monument of Henry Petty, Earl of Shelbourne, who died in 1751, by Scheemaker, erected at the expence of 2000*l.* bequeathed to him for that purpose. The

effigies of the deceased is lying on a cyst of black marble, with the figure of Religion, holding a book before him. On the right hand are Virtue and Learning, represented by female figures instructing a child; on the left Charity and a Roman Warrior; at the top is an urn, with Prudence and Justice on the sides. Beneath the sarcophagus is a medallion of the celebrated Sir William Petty, the Earl's father, and over it the family arms. In the south aisle is a beautiful monument, by Carlini, for Sophia, countess of Shelbourne (first wife of the late Marquis of Lansdown), who died in 1771, with a female figure reclining on an urn, with two children.

This borough appears to have been first incorporated 1461, but the mayor and aldermen are mentioned in a record of the reign of Edward III. The earliest charter now existing among the records of the corporation, appears to have been granted by Henry III. and bears date 1586. The corporation consists of a mayor, twelve aldermen, a recorder, and other officers. The office of high steward was annulled by the charter of King Charles II. but has since that time been conferred on several noblemen. High Wycombe, has sent representatives to parliament ever since the 2th of Edward I. The right of election is vested in the mayor, aldermen, bailiffs, and burgesses; the latter being chosen at the discretion of the mayor, aldermen, and bailiffs. The number of voters at present is about 180.

The market, which is held on Friday, has been from time immemorial. It is a great mart for corn, and other articles.

The prosperity of the town is in a great measure owing to the Wycomb Stream, which in its course through the parish turns several corn and paper-mills. The manufacture of the latter article is probably carried on to as great an extent in this neighbourhood as in any part of England. The influx of travellers, this town being the principal thoroughfare

fare to Oxford, &c. is another source of its prosperity, and a great many of the inhabitants are supported by lace-making.

According to the returns made under the population act, in 1801, it appears that the town of High Wycombe then contained 458 houses and 2349 inhabitants; of these 1088, were males and 1261 females: 58 persons only are returned as being employed in husbandry, and 386 in trade, manufactures, and handicraft. The whole number of houses in the town and parish appear to have been 836: the whole number of inhabitants 4248, of whom 282 were chiefly employed in husbandry, and 724 in trade, manufacture, and handicraft.

At High Wycombe there was formerly an hospital for lepers, founded before the thirteenth of Henry III. and dedicated to St. Margaret and St. Giles. There was also, before the twentieth of Henry III. an hospital for a master, brothers, and sisters, dedicated to St. John the Baptist, which is still in being, for four poor persons; under the government of the mayor, aldermen, and bailiffs. One of these hospitals was valued at the dissolution at 7l. 15s. 3d. clear per annum.

Mr. Bowden, who died in 1790, bequeathed the sum of 1000l. to be invested in the funds for the purpose of raising 30l. per annum, in addition to the salary of the master of the grammar school, who receives the same sum, from the hospital estate, and has a house and garden with an orchard of two acres. The remainder of the produce of Mr. Bowden's donation, is given to the poor of the hospital, in which there are now eight poor widows, who receive 2s. a week each, from the hospital chamberlain.

During the civil wars in the reign of Charles I. Prince Rupert made a successful attack on the parliamentary forces, which were quartered at Wycombe in 1643.

WYCOMBE ABBEY, formerly *Loukes*, the seat of Lord Carrington, stands in a low situation on the banks of the river near the town, so entirely surrounded by its woods and groves that every appearance of so near a neighbourhood is concealed. It was formerly the seat of the Archbishops. It was considerably improved, enlarged, and the grounds ornamented, by Lord Shelbourn, and the present Marquis of Lansdown. The house has, however, been almost wholly rebuilt by the present noble proprietor, in a Gothic style, from the designs of Mr. Wyatt. The park, containing about 200 acres, is diversified with bold hills and eminences, covered with wood, and the small river, which runs through the parish, waters the pleasure grounds of this beautiful seat.

High Wycombe is at present the residence of the first department of the Royal Military College, established in the year 1799, under the superintendence of Major General Le Marchant, the Lieutenant Governor.

BEACONSFIELD is a small market town, in the hundred and deanery of Burnham, deriving its name from the term *Beacon*, either indicative of the commanding eminence whereon it stands, or of the purpose to which that eminence has anciently been applied.

The town consists of four principal streets, which from their relative positions assume the form of a cross.

The market day is on Wednesday, but the market is almost wholly discontinued, the neighbouring towns of Wycombe and Uxbridge having drawn away most of the business. There is a fair held at this place on old Candlemas-day and another on Holy Thursday.

According to the returns under the population act in 1801, the number of inhabitants was then 1149.

Beaconsfield

Beaconsfield Church is composed of flint and square stones. It consists of a nave, chancel, and side aisles, with a tower at the west end. The inside is neatly plaistered and white washed. In the south isle a small and plain mural tablet, has been lately put up to record the memory of that great man Edmund Burke, who died at his seat GREGORIES in this parish. The inscription is as follows :

Near this Place
lies interred
all that was mortal of the
Right Honourable Edmund Burke,
who died on the 9th July, 1797,
Aged 68 years.
In the same grave are deposited
The remains of
His only son Richard Burke, Esq.
Representative in Parliament
for the Borough of Walton,
who died on the 2nd August 1794.
age 35.
Of his brother Richard Burke, Esq.
Barrister at Law, and
Recorder of the City of Bristol,
who died on the 4th February 1794.

In a Chapel in the south side of the chancel, there is an ancient altar tomb, for one of the Bulstrode family.

In the church-yard there is a table monument of white marble, recording the memory of Edmund Waller, the celebrated poet, who was proprietor of this manor, and that of Hall Barns, where he resided. This monument is ornamented with a pyramid in the centre, and four urns at the corners, on each side is a Latin inscription. The lines on the east side are to the following effect :

Edmund Waller, to whom this marble is sacred,
was a native of Coleshill, and a student at Cambridge.

His father was Robert, his mother of the Hampden family.

He was born the 30th. March 1605.

his first wife was Anne, only daughter and heiress of Edward Banks,

Twice made a father by his first wife, and thirteen times by his second,

whom he survived eight years. He died the 21st of October 1687.

GREGORIES, the seat of the late Right Honble. Edmund Burke, and now of his widow, in this parish, belonged also to the Wallers.

The front of this house is very similar to that of the Queen's Palace in St. James's Park. The centre is connected with the two wings by colonnades, each supported by eight Corinthian columns. The grounds are tastefully laid out but not extensive.-- The circumjacent country is finely diversified with birch and coppice woods, hills, vallies, and inclosures. The apartments at Gregories contain some fine paintings, by Sir Joshua Reynolds, and some valuable marbles.

HALL BARNS, the once celebrated seat of Edmund Waller, by whom it was built, is about a mile south from Beaconsfield, and was formerly considered as a magnificent abode.

Among the pictures at this mansion is a portrait of the Poet, painted when he was 23 years of age; another which is supposed to have been intended for him at a more advanced age; and a portrait of a lady, said to be that of Sacharissa, the favourite subject of his muse.

WILTON PARK, in the parish of Beaconsfield, was for many years a seat of the family of Basill, now of James Dupré, Esq. It is about a mile and a half north-east from the town. The house was built from the designs of Mr. Jupp, late surveyor to the East India Company, and finished by the widow of the late Governor Dupré, about 25 years since.

About

About three miles from Beaconsfield, on the right of our road, is BULSTRODE, the principal seat of the Duke of Portland. It was formerly the seat of the ancient family of the Bulstrodes, and was for some time the residence of that infamous character Lord Chancellor Jefferies, of whose son-in-law it was purchased by the Earl of Portland, about the latter end of the reign of King William. This nobleman's son, who was created Duke of Portland in 1716, was grandfather to the present noble owner of Bulstrode.

The park contains about eight hundred acres, agreeably diversified with a variety of surface, and is well wooded. The mansion is built with brick, and forms three sides of a quadrangle with two wings. It stands on an elevated piece of ground, nearly surrounded by a valley. From the walks leading to the flower gardens and shrubberies, there are many extensive and interesting views, in which the forest of Windsor and its castle, with the distant Surrey hills, constitute some extremely beautiful scenery.

There is a small collection of fine pictures at Bulstrode House, by the old masters; among which the following may be more particularly remarked. The Holy Family, by Raphael—St. Cecilia, by Carlo Dolci. Orpheus charming the Brutes, by Roland Savory.—Six large pictures of Boar hunting, Stag hunting, &c. by Snyders and his pupil.—Two Lions and a fawn: Rubens—Tower of Babel: Old Franks.—Virgin and infant Saviour: Vandyck.—Inside of a prison, Stenwick.—Inside of a Church: P. Neefs.—St. John in the Wilderness: Annibal Carracci.—Dutch Kitchen, Bassan.—William the Third in his robes, by Sir Peter Lely. William Bentinck first Earl of Portland, at full length. This celebrated statesman came over with the Prince of Orange, in 1688, and was the person honoured with the chief management of the expedition. He died at Bulstrode in 1709.—A large drawing of shipping, finely executed by

W. V.

W. V. Velde.—Two Battle Pieces: Burgoyne.—Four small Sea-pieces: W. V. Velde.—St. Anthony at his devotions: H. V. Stenwick.—A small picture with horses: Wouvermans.—Portrait of Schalchen by himself.—Seven Roman Charities, by Old Franks.

The Chapel is wainscotted with cedar, and the windows ornamented with painted glass.—There are also several paintings on the walls and cielings, by Marco and Sebastian Ricci. Over the communion table is a Madona and Child, by Vandyck.

The park contains several hundred head of deer.

On a hill, at a small distance south-east from the house, is a very large circular entrenchment, inclosing an area of twenty-one acres, with some fine old oaks, growing on its banks.

The manor of Bulstrode anciently belonged to the abbess and convent of Burnham, who in 1337 had the king's licence to alienate it to William Monticute Earl of Salisbury. It was the same year granted by this nobleman to the monks of Bisham.

About a mile and a half south-east from Bulstrode, is FULMER, a small village, in the parish Church of which is a handsome monument, erected to the memory of the founder, Sir Marmaduke Darell, who is represented in gilt armour; his lady, who lies on his right side, is in a black hood. Sir Marmaduke Darell built the church at his own expence, in the year 1610. In his epitaph he is stiled servant to Queen Elizabeth in her wars by sea and land, and cofferer to King James and King Charles I.

Journey from Henley to Colnbrook; through Great Marlow and Burnham.

About three miles and a half from Henley, on the banks of the Thames, at M&DMENHAM or Medham, there

there was a small abbey of the Cistercian Monks, from Woburn in Bedfordshire. It was founded about the year 1204, by Hugh de Bolebec, and dedicated to the Virgin Mary. In 1536 its revenues were valued at 20*l.* 6*s.* 2*d.* per annum ; the abbey, with its possessions, were then given to the abbot and convent of Bisham. After the general dissolution of monasteries, the site of Medmenham Abbey, with the manor, was granted in 1547, to Thomas and Robert Moor.

Browne Willis, who visited it in 1718, observes "that it seems to have been a very neat and stately building, well wrought with ashler work ; the four pillars remaining are very handsome, and the windows high and spacious."

Mr. Langley describes its present state in the following words, "The abbey-house, with its ivy mantled roof and walls, forms a very picturesque object. The late addition of a ruined tower, cloister, and other corresponding parts, is made with so much taste and propriety, that when time shall have worn off all traces of the rule, and blunted its sharp edges ; when the ivy shall have continued its embraces, and the recesses of various trees overspread the surface, some future writer will be disposed to class it with the more ancient pile. Within the cloister a room is fitted up with the same good taste, and the glare of light is judiciously excluded, by the pleasing gloom of ancient stained glass, chiefly coronets, roses, and portcullises. The figures of the Virgin (the abbey seal) seated on a throne, and holding the infant Saviour in her arms, carved in marble, still remains, and is placed in a niche in the tower."

Robert Scott, Esq. is the present proprietor of the site of Medmenham Abbey. Danesfield, the elegant seat of this gentleman, is so called from a circular entrenchment of that name near the house. It is beautifully situated on a bank, over hanging the river Thames.

In the parish Church of HAMBLETON, a small village,

lage, pleasantly situated in a valley, about a mile out of the road, and nearly opposite Medmenham Abbey, are some memorials of the family of Scrope; an ancient mural monument, without either name or date, which from the arms, and the name of Elizabeth, which occurs in some verses, appears to have been set up for Thomas Lord Sandys of the Vine, who married Elizabeth daughter of George Lord Roos, who died in 1526, and a tablet for Dr. Francis Gregory, rector of Hambledon, who died in 1707. In the burial place belonging to the D'Oyleys, is a handsome monument for Sir Cope D'Oyley, who died in 1633, and his wife Martha, "who lived together in inviolated bands of holy wedlock twenty-two years, and multiplied themselves into five sons and five daughters."

The following lines are inscribed on the monument, and were probably written by Francis Quarles, Lady D'Oyley's brother.

Ask not of me who's buried here?
 Goe ask the commons, ask the shiere:
 Goe ask the church, they'll tell you who,
 As well as blubber'd eyes can do,
 Goe ask the heraulds, ask the poor,
 Thine eares shall hear enough to ask no more.
 Then if thine eyes bedew this sacred urne
 Each drop a pearl will turn,
 T' adorn his tombe; or if thou canst not vent,
 Thou bring'st more marble to his monument.

Under the Lady is inscribed:

Wouldst thou reader, draw to life,
 The perfect copy of a wife,
 Read on; and then from shame redeem,
 That lost but honourable name.
 This was once in spirit a Jael
 Rebecca in grace in heart an Abigail,
 In works a Dorcas, to the church a Hannah,
 And to her spouse Susanna:

Prudently

Prudently simple, providently wary;

To the world a Martha, to heaven a Mary.

The parish of Hambledon is nearly five miles in length, and four in breadth. It contains about 1200 acres of woodland, 3500 acres of arable and pasture, and 150 common and waste. The number of farms are 30, the cottages 154. The inhabitants nearly 1000. The inequality of the ground, the fine mixture of wood, corn, and pastures, and the diversified appearance of hill and dale, render this neighbourhood extremely beautiful.

GREENLAND HOUSE, near Hambledon, was an ancient seat of the D'Oyleys, and during the civil wars in the reign of Charles I. was the residence of Sir John D'Oyley, whose attachment to the royal cause converted it into a garrison, which sustained a siege of six months before its governor, Colonel Hawkins, capitulated upon honourable terms. The house was nearly reduced to a heap of ruins, out of which a farm-house has been erected. The ground about the farm exhibits the vestiges of the extensive fortifications and buildings raised during the siege.

About seven miles west of Great Marlow, is FAWLEY COURT, the seat of Strickland Freeman, Esq. The manor of Fawley was formerly the property of Sir James Whitelock, an eminent lawyer, one of the justices of the common pleas, and father of the celebrated Sir Bulstrode Whitelock, who filled some of the highest departments in the state during the protectorate of Cromwell. Sir James Whitelock died here in the year 1632, and was buried in the parish church, where there is a handsome monument to his memory. He was succeeded by his son Bulstrode Whitelock, abovementioned; and of James, the son of this gentleman, the estate was purchased in 1680, by Colonel William Freeman.

During the time of Sir Bulstrode Whitelock, in 1642, Fawley Court, was occupied by a large party of the king's troops, under the command of Sir John Byron.

Byron. The soldiers, in spite of their commander's orders to refrain from committing any damage upon the property, destroyed the furniture, books, title-deeds, and many valuable MSS. collected by Sir Bulstrode and his father.—“ They littered their horses with sheaves of good wheat, and gave them all sorts of corn in the straw. Of divers writings of consequence, and books which were left in the study, some they tore in pieces, others they used to light their pipes of tobacco, and some they carried away. They also broke down the park pales; killed most of the deer; carried off or destroyed the furniture, and rendered the place unfit for future residence.”

The present manor-house is situated at a distance from the village, on the banks of the Thames, and was erected in the year 1684, after the design of Sir Christopher Wren. It is a spacious and handsome mansion, with four fronts, situated in the centre of an extensive lawn, terminated with some gentle eminences partially covered with beech. The views from the house, are pleasing and extensive.

In the hall are the statues of a Roman Senator and Vestal, which, with several others placed in other parts of the house and gardens, formerly belonged to the Arundel Collection. In the saloon are four fine landscapes, by Cuyp.—A view on the Rhine, by Poussin.—A portrait by Rembrandt; and another by Titian.—And two fine statues of Venus and Apollo. In the gallery are some portraits of the families of Whitelock and Freeman, and a whole length of the *Duchess of Richmond*, by Vandyck, bought at Sir Peter Lely's sale.

About two miles west from Hambledon is FINGEST, a small village, occupying a flat piece of ground, of nearly a triangular shape, surrounded by hills. It was anciently called Tindhurst or Tinghurst, signifying a low piece of ground in the wood. The tower of the present church is square and massy,
of

of Saxon architecture, and is supposed to have been erected prior to the year 1100, about which time the manor was granted to the abbey of St. Alban's.

The parish of Fingest contains about 1300 acres ; of which 250 are woodland, and 900 are pasture and arable.

About a mile and a half west from this village is another called TURVILLE or Turfield, in the neighbourhood of which some Roman coins were found in the year 1772 ; they were chiefly of the emperors Antoninus Pius, Vespasian, Trajan, Aurelius, and the Empress Faustina.

The parish of Turville contains nearly 2000 acres, disposed into arable, pasture, and woodland.

GREAT MARLOW,

In the hundred of Desborough, and deanery of Wycombe, is situated in a very pleasant part of the country, near the banks of the Thames ; and, according to Camden, " derives its name from the chalk, commonly called *marle*, which," he observes, " being on the land hereabouts, communicates such new vigour to it that the next year it is fit for tillage, and yields a double increase." Mr. Langley, however, objects to this derivation, and remarks on the above quoted passage that the learned antiquary has erred both in his derivation and illustration of the name, " for marle and chalk are two distinct substances, and their properties opposite ; of the former too small a quantity is found here to give name to a parish, and the Saxon name of chalk cannot be strained to this etymology. Marlow is called in Domesday book *Merlaw*, which appears to me to signify a *mere* or standing water, And this might then be the situation of the place, for near the town are some peat moors, in which stag's horns, and other animal remains, have been found ; and these moors were probably standing water at that period."

Previous to the conquest the manor of Great Marlow belonged to Algar, Earl of Mercia, from whose

son it was taken by King William and given to his queen Matilda. Upon the Domesday survey it was found to be taxed for 15 hides, and its woods supplied pannage, or feeding, for 1000 hogs, and its fisheries produced 1000 eels. The manor is now the property of Sir William Clayton, bart.

Great Marlow has been a market town from time immemorial, from its appellation Chippen Marlow, it certainly had a market in the time of the Saxons. It consists of two principal streets, in the form of a Roman T, and three smaller ones.

The whole place has of late years been greatly improved, and it seems likely to continue to flourish. The provisional establishment of the second department of the Royal Military College at Great Marlow has no doubt contributed to its prosperity. In this seminary a great number of young gentlemen are completely qualified, by the most approved masters, for every official situation in the army. The college consists of two departments respectively appropriated to the senior and junior classes of pupils. The first class is held at High Wycombe, and the second at Marlow, but it is intended to remove both, when the building about to be erected at Sandhurst, in Berkshire, shall be completed. The first department is exclusively for the instruction of officers in the duties of the general staff, and in particular those which relate to the quarter master general's department in the field. The second department is appropriated for the instruction of those who from early life are intended for the military profession, and who by these means may be grounded in the science, previous to their attaining the age that enables them to hold commissions. The sons of those meritorious officers, either in the land or sea-service, who have fallen or been disabled in the service of their country, and have left their families in need of pecuniary support, and the sons of all subaltern officers, serving in the army, are boarded, educated, and

and supplied with cloathing, free of expence. The sons of captains and other officers are paid for according to their father's rank. The sons of noblemen and gentlemen, young persons intended for the engineer or artillery service, and cadets in the service of the East India Company, pay 90 guineas per annum for their education, boarding, and cloathing.

The Royal Military College was established in 1799, under the superintendence of Major-General Le Merchant, the Lieutenant-Governor, to whom the nation is indebted for the first suggestion of this very useful and laudable institution.

Great Marlow sent representatives to parliament as early as the year 1299, in the 28th year of Edward I. when Richard le Mouner, and Richard le Veil were returned to the parliament held at Lincoln. It continued to send members till the second of Edward II. after which no returns were made until the year 1622, when its ancient privilege was restored by act of parliament. The right of election is in all the inhabitants paying scot and lot.

The municipal government of the town is at present vested in constables, who are the returning officers. It does not appear that any charter of incorporation was ever obtained.

The last mention of the mayor and burgesses occurs about the conclusion of the 14th century. In the year 1599, John Rotheram, of Seymours, in this parish, left the sum of 40*l.* towards procuring a charter of incorporation, and reviving a market to be kept weekly, the profits of which he vested in the corporation ; but his intentions were never carried into effect.

The market is now held on Saturdays, and there are two fairs held on the second and third of May, and 29th of October. The latter is a great fair for horses.

According to the returns made under the population act in 1801, the town and parish of Great Mar-

low then contained 643 houses, of which 26 were uninhabited. The number of inhabitants was 3236 ; of whom 1486 were males, 1800 females. The number of persons employed chiefly in agriculture was 236, and those in trade, manufacture, and handicraft 306.

The parish Church of Marlow is a large ancient structure, dedicated to All Saints. It consists of a body, and two aisles, with a transept dividing it from the chancel. From the tower rises a wooden spire, erected in the year 1627. Between the nave and the chancel is a skreen of chalk, with Gothic tracery. The altar is of oak, handsomely carved. The most remarkable monuments are those of Sir Miles Hobart, one of the members for this borough, who was killed by the overturning of his coach, as it was going down Holborn Hill, in 1632 ; and of Katharine, wife of Sir William Willoughby, who was sheriff of the county in 1603. In the chancel are a few brass plates, one of which commemorates some children of Sir John Salisbury, who died in 1383.

In the book of churchwarden's accounts in this parish are entries of sums of money disbursed for throwing in the bulwarks about the church and Duck-lane, and for cleaning the church, after the soldiers had been quartered in it, in 1642, when the parliamentary army under Major General Brown, was quartered at Marlow. The sum of five shillings appears to have been paid to the ringers, when Charles I. passed through the town, as a prisoner, in 1647.

The old bridge over the Thames at Marlow, was a very ancient structure. Among the patent rolls in the tower are grants, dated during the reigns of Edward III. Richard II. and Henry IV. allowing the bailiffs to take tolls of all goods, wares, merchandizes, and cattle, passing over or under the bridge ; the receipts to be expended in the repairs of the structure. Having become very ruinous and unsafe, an application was made in 1787, for the rebuilding

building of it; but the magistrates not thinking the evidence of its being a county bridge sufficiently supported, refused to comply with the requisition. Upon which a subscription was proposed by the Marquis of Buckingham, who himself subscribed considerably. In the year 1798, the sum of 1800*l.* being raised, the present bridge was erected. This is a convenient wooden fabric, with balustrades painted in imitation of stone work.

The principal charitable institutions in this town are the two Free-schools, founded by Sir William Borlase, in the year 1624. One for 24 boys, three of whom are to be of Medmenham, three of Little Marlow, and the remainder of this parish. The master has a salary of 16*l.* per annum, a house, garden, and a large pasture field. An apprentice fee of 40*s.* is given to each boy, when he leaves the school.

The other is for 24 girls, who by the articles of the endowment were to be taught to knit, spin, and make lace; but this institution is neglected, the trustees alledging that their funds are inadequate for the purpose.

The Alms-house for four poor widows were founded by John Brinkhurst, Esq in 1608, and endowed with an estate, which now produces 42*l.* per annum. The trustees have been enabled by the encrease of the rental, to add two more persons to the original establishment.

There are several other benefactions, which have been at various times vested in trustees for the use of the poor of this town; the most considerable of which is that of 1000*l.* left by Mr. Loftin in 1759, for the purpose of apprenticing poor children.

The parish of Great Marlow contains nearly 6000 acres, of which 800 are woodland, 200 meadow, and 4500 arable, divided into 35 farms.

The village of **LITTLE MARLOW**, a mile and a half east from Great Marlow, contains but little to interest the curious traveller. It is said to have been anci-

ently part of the possessions of Edith, Edward the Confessor's queen. The manor-house is an irregular building, of considerable antiquity, situate near the church.

There was formerly a nunnery here, founded by Geoffry Lord Spenser, before the time of King John. It was of the Benedictine order, dedicated to the blessed Virgin Mary. At the Dissolution it was valued at 23l. 3s. 7d. per annum.

This parish contains about 3182 acres, of which 2285 are arable and pasture, 675 woodland, 72 gardens and orchards, and the remainder common or waste land.

The next village we pass through is WOOBURN, pleasantly situated in a narrow valley, with a river meandering through the middle of it, giving motion to several paper and corn mills.

In the reign of Charles I. the manor of Wooburn came into the possession of Philip Lord Wharton, who in the latter part of his life principally resided here. His son Thomas, Earl Wharton, is said to have expended nearly 100,000l. in altering and improving the grounds belonging to the manor-house, which was surrounded by a moat, and retained its ancient character of feudal magnificence. In the year 1750 the mansion was taken down, and the materials sold for 800l.

In an extensive wilderness, in the vicinity of the house, a quantity of gold angels, to the value of 50l. was discovered about 40 years since, supposed to have been concealed there during the civil wars in the reign of Charles I.

There is a tradition that at that period Lord Wharton concealed 60,000l. in a wood called West Wood, and at the Restoration he could not recollect the exact spot; the only person privy to the transaction being either dead or in exile: but that after clearing two acres, the whole was discovered.

Wooburn Church is a large ancient structure, consisting

sisting of a nave, two aisles, and a handsome tower. It contains several monuments of the Bertie and Wharton families, and the font is a curious and ancient piece of carved work. This parish contains 2595 acres, principally disposed in arable and woodland. The Wycombe stream runs through the whole of the parish, giving motion to several paper and corn-mills.

On Holtspur Heath was formerly a very large beech tree, in which was built a small wooden house, for the accomodation of the Wharton family, and their friends, at the annual races.

Lambert Farm, in the parish of Hedsor, was formerly held under the manor by the service of bringing-in the first dish at the lord's table on St. Stephen's day, and presenting him with two hens, a cock, a gallon of ale, and two manchets of white bread. After dinner the lord delivered to the tenant a sparrow-hawk, and a couple of spaniels, to be kept, at his cost and charges, for the lord's use. A composition is now received in lieu of this service.

In Hedsor parish Church, which is a very small building, are some memorials of the family of Hynde and Parker. In the church yard are deposited the remains of Nathaniel Hook, author of the Roman History, to whose memory a tablet has been lately put up with a Latin inscription, at the expence of Lord Boston; he died 2d July, 1763. Near the church is a yew tree, which measures 27 feet in circumference.

HEDSOR LODGE, the seat of Lord Boston, is situated on the brow of a hill, commanding a very beautiful view of the Thames, and some of the most picturesque parts of Berkshire and Buckinghamshire.

In the library is a curious portrait of Conrad Ernest Copperman, a dwarf, who was page of the backstairs to the Princess Dowager of Wales; he died

at

at the age of 35, being then only three feet five inches in height.

About two miles south of Hedsor, is the village of **TAPLOE**, the pleasant situation of which has induced many gentlemen of fortune lately to make it their residence, and build most agreeable villas. The manor house, on the summit of the hill, is an ancient and noble building, and enjoys a most beautiful prospect over the county, and the river Thames which runs underneath.

Here stood the beautiful palace of Cliefden, which Pope has commemorated in the celebrated lines in which he records the wretched end of its profligate founder, George Villiers, Duke of Buckingham, with part of the wealth so profusely bestowed by Charles II.

Being afterwards the residence of Frederic Prince of Wales, the father of his present Majesty, some of the ablest literary persons of that time were sheltered under its roof: for his little court was eminently literary, and the tranquillity with which it rewarded the genius of Thompson, may recompence for the corrupt gratification of Ralph.

At Cliefden House was first sung that best of all national songs, "Rule Britannia;" and there, also, Thompson probably wrote it. It was a stately mansion, having a noble terrace in front, supported by arches. Its situation was lofty and conspicuous, and surrounded by extensive woods. The pleasure grounds are spacious; finely formed by nature into sloping lawns, hills, and vallies; and assisted with great taste by art. The upper grounds, near the house, command beautiful prospects; and as these are often seen through the vistas of the gardens, partially screened by groups of majestic trees, and other rural objects, they contribute to the variety and beauty of this delightful spot.

The southern declivity towards the Thames is finely hung with natural woods, forming a different,
but

but not less pleasing, kind of scenery, a fine contrast to the higher and more polished grounds.

From the sides of precipices (formed by the falling of mouldering chalk, of which these hills are composed) and from lofty banks overhung by venerable trees, we see the Thames pursuing its meandering course, through beautiful meadows, enlivened by herds of cattle ; the neighbourhood adorned by clusters of villages, or sequestered retreats, forming the most pleasing kind of landscape.

The inside of this mansion was ornamented by tapestry hangings, representing the victories of the Duke of Marlborough, in which the Earl of Orkney himself had a considerable share.

This elegant mansion was burnt down on Wednesday night the 20th of May, 1795.

This beautiful seat belonged to the Earl of Inchiquin, and was occupied by the honourable Thomas Fitzmaurice, who married his lordship's daughter, now Countess of Orkney.

The Earl of Inchiquin lost nothing more by the fire, than his life-interest in the house and furniture, which was in the possession of his daughter the Countess of Orkney, who had the remainder in fee. The lady lost her jewels, plate, and clothes, so as not to have saved a single diamond or trinket.

BURNHAM, a small village, two miles from Taplow, had formerly a market on Thursdays, granted to the abbey of Burnham in 1271, together with a fair on the feast of St. Matthew. The market has been long discontinued, but there are still three fairs on the days mentioned in our list.

There was formerly a nunnery of the order of St. Austin, consisting of an abbess and seven or eight nuns, at Burnham. It was founded by Richard, king of the Romans, in the year 1165, and dedicated to the blessed Virgin. Its annual value at the Dissolution was 51l. 2s. 4d.

The manor of APPENHAM, in this parish, was part
of

of the ancient demesnes of the crown, and is said to have been the residence of the Mercian Kings, and it appears by the foundation charter of Burnham Abbey, that Henry III. occasionally resided here.— There is an ancient moated site near Appenham, upon which most probably the palace was situated.

In the parish Church of Burnham, there is a handsome monument, to the memory of the late Mr. Justice Willis, with a medallion, in which he is represented in his robes.

There is also a wooden tablet, to the memory of John Hastings, Esq. who died in 1656, which has the arms of Hastings, with one hundred quarterings, over which are placed the arms of the family of Cage, the former owners of Brightwell Court, on an escutcheon of pretence.

Robert Aldrich, bishop of Carlisle, was a native of Burnham.

BRIGHTWELL COURT, in Burnham parish, the seat of the Honble. Mr. Irby, eldest son of Lord Boston, was some time the residence of the accomplished Charles Earl of Orrery, who purchased it of Mr. Reeve, an eminent lawyer of Windsor.

The chapel of ease in Boveny liberty is a very ancient structure.

In the parish Church of FARNHAM ROYAL, a small village, two miles north-east of Burnham, is a brass plate, in memory of Eustace Mascall, clerk of the works to Cardinal Wolsey, at the building of Fredesweile in Oxford, and for seventeen years chief clerk of accounts for all the buildings of King Henry VIII. within twenty miles of London. He died in 1567, being then *Pistoll reader* in Windsor Castle.

Mrs. Elizabeth Hetherington gave 140l. towards the foundation of a Charity-school, in this parish in 1777; and David Saltre, in 1664, gave 17l. per annum, to buy loaves and white herrings for the poor, and two shillings for a pair of white kid gloves for the

the rector, on the first Sunday in Lent, as long as the world should last.

The manor of Farnham Royal was anciently held by grand serjeanty, by the service of finding a glove for the king's right hand on the day of his coronation, and supporting his right arm that day whilst he held his sceptre.

At HEDGERLEY DEAN, a hamlet in this parish, there are some large and deep entrenchments, and the tradition of the neighbourhood is that a battle was fought here between the Danes and the Saxons.

STOKE POGIS, is a large scattered village, about a mile east from Farnham Royal. In the reign of Queen Mary, a chapel and an hospital were built here, with a portico supported by pillars, by Edward Lord Hastings; but it has been lately destroyed, and a new one erected upon a more convenient spot at no great distance.

A little north of it was SROKE HOUSE, the old manor-house, said by Camden to have been built by Henry Earl of Huntingdon.

This was the seat of Lord Chancellor Hatton. Sir Edward Coke next resided here, and was visited, in 1601, by Queen Elizabeth, whom he sumptuously entertained; presenting her with jewels, &c. to the value of 1000*l.* and here in 1634, he died.

It became afterwards the seat of Anne Viscountess Cobham, on whose death it was purchased by Mr. Penn, one of the late proprietors of Pennsylvania.—John Penn, Esq. his representative, took down the mansion, and erected a noble seat, in a more elevated situation. He likewise rebuilt Lord Loughborough's hospital, on a more convenient spot.

The present mansion-house was built from designs by James Wyatt, Esq. and has been since considerably improved by judicious alterations and additions. It is constructed principally of brick, covered with stucco, in imitation of stone, and consists of a large
centre

centre and with two wings. The north or entrance front is ornamented with a colonnade, consisting of ten Doric pillars, and approached by a flight of steps leading to the Marble Hall. The south front, 196 feet in length, is also adorned with a colonnade of twelve fluted columns, of the old Doric order.—Above this rises a projecting portico of four Ionic columns, sustaining an ornamental pediment. The Marble Hall is oval, and contains four marble busts, supported on pedestals of scagliola, in imitation of various coloured marbles. The library is a noble room, extending the whole of the south front, and contains an elegant and well-chosen collection of books.

Among the family pictures at Stoke House, the following deserve particular attention :

The portraits of Admiral Sir William Penn, and that of his son, the celebrated founder of Pennsylvania, a half-length, represented in armour, about the age of 22.

A large picture, containing the portraits of four children of the Penn family, in a landscape, by Sir Joshua Reynolds.

Three children of King Charles the First ; painted by Vandyck.

In the park, about three hundred yards from the north front of the house, is a handsome fluted column, 68 feet high, erected from a design by Mr. Wyatt, surmounted with a colossal statue of Sir Edward Coke, by Rossi.

In Lady Cobham's time, Mr. Gray, whose aunt resided in the village, often visited Stoke Park, and in 1747, it was the scene of his poem called "A Long Story ;" in which the style of building in Queen Elizabeth's reign is admirably described, and the fantastic manners of her time are likewise delineated with equal truth and humour :

" In Britain's isle, no matter where,
An ancient pile of building stands :

The Huntingdons and Hattons there
Employ'd the power of fairy hands,

“ To raise the cieling's fretted height,
Each pannel in atchievements clothing,
Rich windows that exclude the light,
And passages that lead to nothing.

“ Full oft within the spacious walls,
When he had fifty winters o'er him,
My grave lord-keeper led the brawls ;
The seal and maces danced before him.

“ His bushy beard, and shoe-strings green,
His high-crown'd hat, and satin doublet,
Mov'd the stout heart of England's queen,
Though Pope and Spaniard could not trouble it.”

To understand the third stanza, it must be observed, that Sir Christopher Hatton was promoted by Queen Elizabeth for his graceful person and fine dancing. Hatton's dancing was certainly his best qualification, and was the means of promoting him to be lord chancellor. Being in that high station, he became arrogant. The queen thereupon told him, “ that he was too much exalted by the indulgence of his fortune, which had placed him in a station for which he was unfit, he being ignorant of the chancery law, and needing the assistance of others to enable him to do his duty.” This reproach struck him to the heart, and he resolved to admit no consolation. When he was almost half dead, the queen repented of her severity, and went herself to comfort the dying chancellor ; but it was all to no purpose, for he was obstinately resolved to die. Brawls were a sort of figure dance, then in vogue.

The church-yard must ever be interesting, as the scene of our poet's elegy ; and, at the east end of it he is interred ; but without even a stone to record his exit, “ and teach the rustic moralist to die.”

Mr. Penn has erected a monument for him in an adjoining field, with the following inscription :

This Monument, in honor of
 THOMAS GRAY,
 was erected A. D. 1799,
 among the scenery
 Celebrated by that great lyric and elegiac poet.
 He died in 1771,
 and lies unnoticed in the adjoining church-yard,
 under the tombstone on which he piously
 and pathetically recorded the interment
 of his aunt and lamented mother.

In this parish is the handsome seat of Sir George Howard, K. B.

SLOUGH, the well-known thoroughfare on the Bath road, is a hamlet of the parish of Upton, and has for several years been the residence of the celebrated optician Dr. Herschel. In the Philosophical Transactions for the year 1795, is a particular and full description of his 40 feet telescope, illustrated with 18 engravings. It was completed in August 1789, on which day the sixth satellite of Saturn was discovered. The telescope is now standing in Dr. Herschel's garden.

About two miles and a half south from Slough, is the village of ETON, in the hundred of Stoke, and deanery of Burnham, separated from Windsor, in Berkshire, by the river Thames. It is 22 miles from London, pleasantly situated on the banks of the Thames, in a delightful valley, and on a remarkably healthy soil. It has a bridge which unites it with Windsor, and of late years has been considerably improved, many of the houses having been rebuilt, and others repaired in the modern stile. It principally consists of one street, connected with the town of Windsor by the bridge above-mentioned, over the river Thames.

There is an annual fair at Eton, on Ash Wednesday.

The college of Eton, called "The Kynge's College of our Lady, at Etone, by syde Wyndesore," was founded by King Henry VI. in the 19th year of his reign, for a provost, ten priests, four clerks, six choristers, 25 poor grammar scholars, with a master to teach them, and 25 poor old men. Some of the endowment was taken away by King Edward IV. and at the general Dissolution, out of which it was particularly excepted, the annual revenue was valued at no more than 886l. 12s. clear.

The scholars on this foundation are annually elected to King's College, Cambridge, founded also by Henry VI. but not removed till the occurrences of the vacancies, when they are called according to seniority, and after they have continued at Cambridge three years are entitled to a fellowship.

The average number of vacancies is about nine in two years. At 19 years of age the scholars are superannuated. Eton College sends two scholars to Merton College, Oxford; where they are denominated post-masters. It has a few exhibitions of 21 guineas each, for its superannuated scholars, towards whose assistance Mr. Chamberlayne, a late fellow, has bequeathed an estate of 80l. per annum, after the death of his widow.

Besides the king's scholars there are seldom less than 300 noblemen's and gentlemen's sons, who board with the masters, and receive their education at this seminary.

The College buildings consist of two neat quadrangles or courts. In the outermost are the schools, and the lodgings for the masters and scholars; and on the south is the college chapel. On the front or east end is part of the provost's lodgings, and a beautiful ancient tower or gateway, which divides the two courts. In the middle of the first court is a statue in brass, well executed, of the royal founder. The inner court comprises the lodgings and apartments of the provost and fellows of the college. On

the south side is the College Library, one of the most elegant in the kingdom, both with respect to the neatness of the room, and the well-chosen collection of the best authors, and their editions: given, for the most part, by Dr. Waddington, bishop of Chichester; Dr. Godolphin, provost; the Rev. Mr. Reynolds, late fellow; and Nicholas Man, Esq. master of the Charter-House; and in particular the fine library of Richard Topham, Esq. of Windsor; with many elegant drawings of Greek and Roman antiquities, collected at a great expence by that gentleman at Rome, and presented to the college by Lord Chief Justice Reeve and Dr. Mead, his executors. The late Rev. Mr. Hetherington, sometime fellow of this college, on quitting his fellowship, presented to the library many valuable books. This gentleman, besides this and other distinguished marks of his generosity to the college, built, at his sole expence, a neat chapel, in the middle of the town, for the better accomodation of the inhabitants.

The College Chapel is a very handsome Gothic structure of stone, forming the south side of the outer court, its principal internal beauty consisting in its elegant simplicity and plainness. It is, however, ornamented, on the outside, with large abutments, pinnacles, and embrasures, and is very similar in the disposition of its parts to that of King's College at Cambridge.

The origin of the singular custom celebrated at Eton school, every third year, on Whit Tuesday, under the name of the *Montem*, cannot be satisfactorily ascertained, but the custom itself seems to have been coeval with the foundation of the college.

This procession is made to a tumulus, near the Bath road, which has acquired the name of Salt-hill, by which also the neighbouring inns have long been known. The chief object of this ceremony, which has of late years been conducted with more decorum than formerly, is to collect money for
salt,

salt, as the phrase is, from all persons travelling on the road. The scholars who collect the money are called salt-bearers, and are dressed in rich silk habits. "Tickets, inscribed with some motto, by way of pass word, are given to such persons as have already paid for *salt*, as a security from any further demands. The procession has been frequently honoured with the presence of his Majesty and the royal family, whose liberal contributions, added to those of many of the nobility and others, who have been educated at Eton, and purposely attend the meeting, have so far augmented the collection, that it has been known to amount to more than 800*l*. The sum so collected is given to the senior-scholar, who is going off to Cambridge, for his support at the university."—*Lyson's Magna Britannia*.

Many eminent persons lie interred in the college chapel: among whom are Richard, Lord Grey of Wilton, henchman to Henry VIII. John Longland, bishop of Lincoln, confessor to that monarch: Sir Henry Saville, the learned warden of Merton, and provost of this college, who founded the Savillian professorships of astronomy and geometry at Oxford; Sir Henry Wotton, an eminent ambassador and statesman, who was also provost of Eton; Francis Rouse, a distinguished writer among the puritans, and one of the lords of Cromwell's upper house, who died provost of Eton in 1658; Dr. Allertree provost of Eton (an eminent royalist), who built the upper school with the cloisters beneath, at the expence of 1500*l*. and died in 1680; and Nathaniel Ingelo, who died in 1683.

The statue of the founder in the ante-chapel above mentioned, was executed by Bacon in 1786, at the expence of 600*l*. which was bequeathed for that purpose by the Rev. Edward Betham, fellow of the college, who died in 1783.

About two miles from Eton is the pleasant village of DATCHET, in the hundred and deanery of Burnham.

ham. Edward III. granted the manor of Datchet, in 1335, to William de Montacute. It afterwards became parcel of the possessions of the castle and honor of Windsor. It is now the property of the Duchess of Buccleugh.

The bridge over the Thames, at Datchet, originally built by Queen Anne, fell down in the year 1795, and has not since been rebuilt.

In the parish Church is the monument of Catherine, wife of Sir Maurice Berkely, daughter of Lord Montjoy; that of Christopher Barker, printer to Queen Elizabeth, who died in 1607; and several of the family of Wheeler.

A short distance from the village is **DITTON PARK**, an ancient and venerable mansion, built by Sir Ralph Winwood, secretary of state to King James I. It afterwards fell to the noble family of Montague; and on the decease of the late duke, this house, and the manor of Datchet, came to her grace the Duchess of Manchester, the eldest daughter of that noble family.

The seat is built in the form of a castle, in the centre of a pleasant park, well planted with timber, and is encompassed by a large moat. The apartments are spacious and finely painted; and in the picture-gallery is a good collection of paintings, many of which are the performances of the most capital masters.

Of late years Ditton has been the seat of Earl Beaulieu, who died in 1803. He possessed it in right of his lady, the Duchess dowager of Manchester, daughter and sole heir of John, Duke of Montague. It is, by bequest, the property of the Duchess of Buccleugh: the reversion is vested in her second son Lord Montague.

In the parochial chapel of **LANGLEY**, about two miles and a half south-west before we reach Colnbrook, there is a small library of books, chiefly upon divinity, which was left for public use by Sir John Kedderminster,

Kedderminster, with the express injunction that no book should at any time be taken out of it.

There are two alms-houses in this parish. One of them founded by Sir John Kedderminster for six poor persons, each of whom receives a weekly allowance of 2s. 6d. The other was founded by Henry Spencer, Esq. for two poor men and two women. His nephew Captain Henry Seymour, in 1733, bequeathed the sum of 200l to purchase lands for the better support of this alms-house. Its inhabitants now receive 2s. 6d. a week each.

COLNEBROOK is a small town of considerable antiquity, situated on the Bath road, partly in the parish of Langley, and partly in the parish of Horton. It derives its name from the small river Coln, upon several channels of which the town is built, and over each of which there is a small bridge. According to Camden this place is the *Pontes* of the itinerary of Antoninus.

The Danes, after their defeat at Farnham, fled across the Thames, without any ford, and thence up by Colne, to a certain island, where Alfred besieged them as long as his provisions lasted. Bishop Gibson supposed this to mean the river Colne in Essex.

The town obtained a charter of incorporation in the year 1543, by the style of bailiff and burgessess : and at the same time a market to be held on Tuesdays, and two fairs. This charter was renewed in 1632. The market has been discontinued for some years, and there are now only two fairs, held on the 5th of April and the 3d of May.

The ancient chantry chapel at Colnbrook, which formerly stood in a narrow part of the town, has been lately removed by the commissioners of the turnpike roads, and rebuilt on the opposite side of the road in the parish of Horton.

The principal business of the town arises from its
thoroughfare

thoroughfare situation, and the consequent influx of strangers.

According to the returns made under the population act in 1801, the parish of Langley, then contained 241 houses, and 1215 inhabitants.

The village of IVER, about three miles from Colnbrook, was formerly a market town; a market having been granted to Lord Neville, owner of the manor, in 1351, and confirmed in 1461 to the dean and chapter of Windsor, together with two fairs.

Ever or Iver takes its name from Roger de Iveri, who came over with the Conqueror, and had this estate among others given to him. Richard I. in the fourteenth year of his reign gave it to Robert, and King John confirmed it to his son John de Iver.

In this parish is RICHING'S LODGE, the seat of the Right Honourable John Sullivan, M. P. It was formerly the residence of the amiable and accomplished Countess of Hertford, (afterwards Duchess of Somerset) who changed its name to Percy Lodge. In one of her letters, lately published, she observes that on the spot where her green-house stood, was formerly a chapel dedicated to St. Leonard.

In Iver Church is a monument to the memory of Sir George and Sir Edward Salter, successively carvers to King Charles I. with the effigies of Mary, Lady Salter (wife of Sir George) rising from her coffin in a shroud. There is also a monument in memory of John King, who was killed by his kinsman Roger Parkinson, who, in a drunken fit, struck a shoemaker's awl into his forehead.

A Free School was founded at Iver about the middle of the last century, by Robert Bowyer, who endowed it with a sum of money, which at present, produces an income of about 21l. per annum.

The parish of Iver is stated in the act of parliament

ment for its inclosure, to contain 2462 acres: this act was passed in 1800.

In the parish Church of WYRARDISBURY, about three miles to the south of Colnbrook, are some monuments of the Harcourt family, and of Thomas Wright, Esq. and Thomas Gill, Esq. aldermen of London, partners in a very extensive business as stationers, who died within a fortnight of each other, in the year 1798.

At ANKERWYKE, in this parish, there was a nunnery erected in the time of Henry II. by Sir Gilbert de Montfichet knight, and Richard his son for religious of the order of St. Benedict. There were five nuns in this place at the Dissolution, and their revenue was 132l. 0s. 2d. per annum.

In 1550 Ankerwyke Priory, and the estates belonging to it, was given by King Edward VI. to Sir Thomas Smith, the celebrated statesman. The priory was for many years afterwards the seat of the Salter family. There are at present no remains of the conventual buildings, which are described as wholly ruinous in the report of the commissioners in the reign of Henry VIII. Soon after the Dissolution a mansion was built on the site, the hall of which still remains.

Near the house is a remarkably large yew tree which, at six feet from the ground, measures 30 feet five inches in girth.

Nobility of the County, and Places which have given title to any branch of the Peerage.

The county of Buckingham first gave the title of duke to John Sheffield, Marquis of Normanby, who was advanced to that dignity in the year 1703. The title became extinct upon the death of his grace's son Edmund, who died unmarried in 1736. In 1746 John Lord Hobart was created Earl of Buckinghamshire, which title is now enjoyed by his grandson.

The first earl of Buckingham was Walter, surnamed

med Gifford, son of Osborn de Bolebec. He was succeeded by his son, who dying in 1164 without issue the title became extinct. In the reign of Henry II. the famous Richard Strongbow, earl of Pembroke, descended from the sister and heiress of the second Walter Gifford, assumed this title in some deeds. After this it lay dormant a long time, till in 1377, Richard II. created his uncle Thomas of Woodstock, sixth son of Edward III. Earl of Buckingham. He was succeeded by his son Henry Plantagenet, who died without male issue. His daughter marrying Edmund, Earl of Stafford, had *Humphrey* earl of Stafford created duke of Buckingham, by Henry VI. in whose cause he lost his life at Northampton; upon the attainder of Edward Stafford, duke of Buckingham, in 1521, this title became extinct. In 1617, George Villiers, Baron Whadden, and Viscount Villiers was created Earl and Marquis of Buckingham; and the year following his mother was created Countess of Buckingham for life. In 1622, the marquis was advanced to the title of Duke of Buckingham, which became extinct by the death of his son, and has not been since revived. In 1704 Earl Temple was created Marquis of Buckingham, and still enjoys the title.

The town of Aylesbury gave the title of earl to Robert Bruce in 1663. It became extinct in 1747, but was revived in 1776 in the family of Brudenell.

Sir Edward Henry Lee was created Viscount Quarendon in this county; and Earl of Litchfield in the year 1674, both which titles are extinct.

Robert Lord Dormer was created Viscount Ascot (a hamlet of Wring in this county), in 1628, and Earl of Caernarvon, both which titles are now extinct.

The village of Haversham gave the title of Baron, to Sir John Thompson, in 1696, now extinct.

Thomas Lord Wharton was created Viscount Winchendon in this county, and Earl of Wharton

in 1706, both which titles became extinct in 1731.

Rare Plants found in this county.

According to the authors of the *Magna Britannia*, the only rare plant known to botanists as indigenous to this county is the *Dentaria Bulbifera*, or Coralwort, which grows in abundance, in some of the beech-woods, in the south-east corner of Buckinghamshire.

Among the plants enumerated as rare in Camden's *Britannia*, the more rare are the following :

Dianthus Caryophyllus : Clove Pink, or July flower.

Ophrys muscifera : Fly Orchis.

Paris quadrifolia : Herb Paris, true love.

Hieracium murorum : French or Golden Lungwort.

Melampyrum cristatum : Crested Cow Wheat.

Jasione Montana : Hairy Sheeps' scabious.

END OF DESCRIPTION OF BUCKINGHAMSHIRE.



TABLE OF CONTENTS

TO THE SURVEY OF BUCKINGHAMSHIRE.

| | Page |
|--|------|
| Index of Distances, from Town to Town, | 3 |
| Inspection Table, | 4 |
| Itinerary, &c. | 5 |
| List of Fairs, | 13 |
| List of Topographical Works of the County, | 14 |
| General Description, | 16 |
| Boundaries, | |
| Situation, | |
| Extent, | |
| Name, | |
| Ancient History, | |
| Climate, | |
| Rivers, | |
| Navigable Canals, | |
| Agriculture, | |
| Mines and Minerals, | |
| Civil and Ecclesiastical Divisions, | 27 |
| Topographical Description, | 29 |
| Journey from Brackley to Uxbridge: through Buck- ingham, Winslow, Aylesbury, Wendover, and Amersham, | ib. |
| Journey from Buckingham to Olney; through Stony Stratford and Newport Pagnell, | 85 |
| Journey from Stoke Goldington to Woburn; through Newport Pagnell, | 97 |
| Journey from Stony Stratford to Leighton Buzard; through Feony Stratford, | 100 |
| Journey from Thame to Aylesbury, | 111 |
| Journey from Prince's Risborough to Uxbridge; through High Wycombe and Beaconsfield, | 114 |
| Journey from Henley to Colnbrook; through Great Marlow and Burnham, | 128 |
| Nobility of the County, and places which have given title to any branch of the Peerage, | 153 |
| Rare Plants found in this county | 155 |

A
TOPOGRAPHICAL
AND
STATISTICAL DESCRIPTION
OF THE
COUNTY OF OXFORD;

Containing an Account of its

| | | |
|------------|---------------|--------------|
| Situation, | Minerals, | Agriculture, |
| Extent, | Fisheries, | Curiosities, |
| Towns, | Manufactures, | Antiquities, |
| Roads, | Trade, | Natural |
| Rivers, | Commerce, | History, |

Civil and Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction, &c.

TO WHICH ARE PREFIXED,

*The Direct and Principal Cross Roads,
Distances of Stages, Inns, and
Noblemen and Gentlemen's Seats ;*

ALSO,

A LIST OF THE MARKETS AND FAIRS,

And an Index Table,

Exhibiting at One View, the Distances of all the Towns from London,
and of Towns from each other :

The whole forming

A COMPLETE COUNTY ITINERARY.

BY G. A. COOKE, ESQ.

Illustrated with a

MAP OF THE COUNTY.

London :

Printed, by Assignment from the Executors of the late G. Cooke,

FOR

SHERWOOD, NEELY, AND JONES, PATERNOSTER-RROW.

SOLD BY ALL BOOKSELLERS

| | | | | | |
|--|-----------------|------------------|--|--|--|
| <i>On L a T. R. to Brentford.</i> | | | | | |
| Southall — — | 1 $\frac{1}{4}$ | 9 $\frac{1}{4}$ | Southall-park, Rev. Dr. Collins, L. <i>Inn</i> —Red Lion. | | |
| <i>Cross the Grand Junction Canal, and a little further the old R.</i> | | | | | |
| Hayes — — | 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ | 11 $\frac{3}{4}$ | Hillingdon-heath, at Little London, De Sallis, Esq.; behind is Drayton, F. De Burgh, Esq. | | |
| <i>Cross Hillingdon Heath to</i> | | | | | |
| Hillingdon — | 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ | 13 $\frac{1}{4}$ | At Little Hillingdon, Hillingdon-house, —Cox, Esq. | | |
| UXBRIDGE — | 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ | 14 $\frac{3}{4}$ | Belmont-house, T. Harris, Esq. R; and the Mount, Sir Charles Hamilton, Bart. On the R of 16th mile-stone, Harefield-place, Mrs. Parker; beyond, Denham-court, R. Thompson, Esq.; a little further, Denham-place, Mrs. Way. | | |
| <i>Cross the Colne R. and Grand Junction Canal.</i> | | | | | |
| Red Hill — | 2 $\frac{1}{4}$ | 17 | Top of the Hill, Denham-mount, — Snell, Esq.; on R, Oak-end, R. Sewell, Esq. | | |
| <i>At the 18th mile-stone a T. R. to Amersham and Aylesbury.</i> | | | | | |
| Tatling End — | 1 | 18 | Bulstrode, Duke of Somerset, L. <i>Inn</i> —the White Hart. | | |
| Gerard's Cross | 1 $\frac{3}{4}$ | 19 $\frac{1}{4}$ | | | |
| BEACONSFIELD — | 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ | 22 $\frac{1}{4}$ | Near on R. Wilton-park, J. Du Pré, Esq.; beyond, on L, Great-hall-barn, the ancient seat of Waller, the Poet. The pleasure-grounds to | | |

| | | | |
|-----------------------------|----------------|-----------------|--|
| | | | which are grand and beautiful, Rev. Edward Waller. |
| | | | <i>Inn</i> —the King's Head. |
| Holspur Heath | $1\frac{1}{4}$ | $24\frac{1}{2}$ | |
| Loudwater — | $1\frac{1}{2}$ | 26 | |
| Wycombe Marsh | $1\frac{1}{2}$ | $27\frac{3}{4}$ | <i>Inn</i> —Red Lion. |
| HIGH WYCOMBE | 1 | 28 | On L, Wycombe-ab- |
| <i>On R a T. R. to</i> | | | bey, Lord Carrington; at |
| <i>Amersham, and</i> | | | the top of the Hill is West |
| <i>on L to Great</i> | | | Wycombe-church, on the |
| <i>Marlow.</i> | | | tower of which is a ball |
| West Wycombe | $2\frac{3}{4}$ | $31\frac{1}{2}$ | that will contain twelve |
| | | | people, and may be seen |
| | | | beyond Beaconsfield. |
| Ham Farm — | $\frac{3}{4}$ | $32\frac{1}{4}$ | |
| <i>A little before Sto-</i> | | | |
| <i>ken Church a T.</i> | | | |
| <i>R. to Great Mar-</i> | | | |
| <i>low.</i> | | | |
| Stoken Church, } | 4 | 36 | One mile on L, is |
| <i>Oxon</i> | | | Wormsley, J. Fane, Esq. |
| | | | From Stoken Church-hill |
| | | | see on R, in the bottom, |
| | | | Aston Rowant, P. Wy- |
| | | | comb, Esq.; and on L, |
| | | | Lewknor-grove, Mrs. Da- |
| | | | vis. |
| Postcombe — | $3\frac{1}{4}$ | 40 | $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles on L of the |
| <i>On R a T. R. to</i> | | | 37th mile-stone is Sher- |
| <i>Thame.</i> | | | burn-castle, Earl of Mac- |
| | | | clesfield; and from the |
| | | | 41st mile-stone, see on L, |
| | | | Wheatfield-house, Lord |
| | | | Chas. Spencer; and Ad- |
| | | | well-place, Mrs. Jones. |
| Tetsworth — | $2\frac{1}{4}$ | $42\frac{1}{2}$ | Swan Inn; about one |
| | | | mile and a half on R, is |
| | | | Thame-park, Miss Wick- |
| | | | ham. |

| | | | |
|--|----------------|-----------------|---|
| Hutt — — | $2\frac{1}{4}$ | $44\frac{1}{2}$ | Waterstock, ——— Ashurst, Esq. |
| <i>On R, a T. R. to Thame, on L to Wallingford, 3 miles from Hutt cross the Thame R.</i> | | | |
| Wheatley — — | $3\frac{1}{4}$ | $48\frac{1}{4}$ | Near, on R, Water- perry, H. Curzon, Esq.; see on L, Cuddesdon, the palace of the Bishop of Oxford; on R of Wheat- ley is Holton-park, E. Biscoe, Esq.; one mile from ditto, on L, is Shot- over, T. Schutz, Esq. |
| <i>On L the old Road to Oxford over Shotover Hill, and about 1 mile further on R a T. R. to Chip- ping Norton.</i> | | | |
| Forest Hill — — | $1\frac{3}{4}$ | 50 | |
| Headington — — | $2\frac{1}{4}$ | $52\frac{1}{4}$ | Headington-house, Mrs. Jones. |
| Headington Hill | 1 | $53\frac{1}{2}$ | |
| <i>On L the old Road to Wheatley over Shotover Hill.</i> | | | |
| St. Clements — — | $\frac{1}{2}$ | $53\frac{3}{4}$ | |
| <i>On L a T. R. to Henley cross the Charwell R. to</i> | | | |
| OXFORD — — | $\frac{3}{4}$ | $54\frac{1}{2}$ | |

A LIST

OF THE

PRINCIPAL TOWNS

IN THE

COUNTY OF OXFORD,

With their distance from London, Markets, Number of Houses and Inhabitants, with the time of the arrival and departure of the Post.

| Towns. | D. | Mark. | Hos. | Inha- bits. | Post arrives | Post departs. |
|-----------------|----|--------|------|----------------|----------------------|-----------------------|
| Bampton | 70 | .. | 251 | 1232 | | |
| Banbury | 75 | Thurs. | 582 | 2841 | 9 M. | 5 Aft. |
| Bicester | 58 | Friday | 424 | 2156 | 8 M. | 6 Aft. |
| Burford | 73 | Satur. | 239 | 1342 | 6 $\frac{1}{4}$ M. | 9 $\frac{3}{4}$ Aft. |
| Charlbury | 67 | Friday | 212 | 1074 | | |
| Chipping Norton | 73 | .. | 373 | 1975 | 6 $\frac{3}{4}$ M. | 8 $\frac{3}{4}$ Aft. |
| Deddington | 69 | Satur. | 252 | 1296 | 8 M. | 5 Aft. |
| Dorchester | 52 | Tues. | 148 | 754 | 12 $\frac{3}{4}$ Af. | 12 $\frac{1}{2}$ M. |
| Henley | 35 | Thurs. | 522 | 3117 | 12 $\frac{3}{4}$ M. | 3 $\frac{1}{4}$ M. |
| Hook Norton | 74 | .. | 288 | 1129 | | |
| Nettlebed | 40 | .. | 101 | 456 | 12 Nt. | 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ M. |
| Oxford | 55 | W.& S. | 1992 | 12931 | 3 M. | 11 Aft. |
| Stokenchurch | 36 | .. | 185 | 888 | 1 $\frac{1}{4}$ M. | 2 M. |
| Thame | 46 | Tues. | 457 | 1328 | 7 M. | 7 Aft. |
| Watlington | 45 | Satur. | 234 | 1150 | | |
| Wheatley | 48 | .. | 160 | 764 | 3 M. | 12 $\frac{1}{4}$ M. |
| Witney | 69 | Thurs. | 520 | 2722 | 5 $\frac{1}{4}$ M. | 10 $\frac{3}{4}$ Aft. |
| Woodstock | 62 | Tues. | 220 | 1419 | 5 $\frac{1}{4}$ M. | 8 Aft. |

The price of postage for a single letter varies from 5d. to 8d. throughout the county.

INDEX OF COMPUTED DISTANCES FROM TOWN TO TOWN, WITHIN THE COUNTY OF OXFORD.

The names of the respective Towns are to be found on the top and side,
and the intersection of the lines gives the distance.

| | Bampton | Distant from London | | | | Miles | |
|-----------------|---------|---------------------|-----|-----|-----|-------|----|
| Banbury | 31 | Banbury | ... | ... | ... | ... | 70 |
| Bicester | 22 | Bicester | ... | ... | ... | ... | 74 |
| Burford | 26 | Burford | ... | ... | ... | ... | 58 |
| Charlbury | 12 | Charlbury | ... | ... | ... | ... | 73 |
| Chipping Norton | 16 | Chipping Norton | ... | ... | ... | ... | 67 |
| Deddington | 25 | Deddington | ... | ... | ... | ... | 73 |
| Dorchester | 20 | Dorchester | ... | ... | ... | ... | 69 |
| Henley | 35 | Henley | ... | ... | ... | ... | 52 |
| Hook Norton | 24 | Hook Norton | ... | ... | ... | ... | 35 |
| Nettlebed | 28 | Nettlebed | ... | ... | ... | ... | 74 |
| Oxford | 14 | Oxford | ... | ... | ... | ... | 40 |
| Stokenchurch | 32 | Stokenchurch | ... | ... | ... | ... | 55 |
| Thame | 26 | Thame | ... | ... | ... | ... | 56 |
| Watlington | 26 | Watlington | ... | ... | ... | ... | 46 |
| Wheatley | 22 | Wheatley | ... | ... | ... | ... | 45 |
| Winney | 5 | Winney | ... | ... | ... | ... | 48 |
| Woodstock | 15 | Woodstock | ... | ... | ... | ... | 69 |

INSPECTION TABLE FOR THE COUNTY OF OXFORD.

| <i>Bounded by</i> | <i>Extent</i> | <i>Contains</i> | <i>Sends to Parliament.</i> | <i>Produce and Manufactures.</i> |
|---|--|---|---|--|
| Warwickshire and Northamptonshire on the north. Buckinghamshire on the east. Berkshire on the south. And on the west by Gloucestershire. | In length about 48 miles. In breadth 26 miles. In circumference about 130 miles. | 14 Hundreds. 1 City and University. 2 Boroughs. 10 Market-towns. 207 Parishes. 22,702 houses. 119,191 Inhabitants 450,000 Acres. | 9 Members <i>viz.</i> 2 for the county. 2 for the city. 2 for the University. 2 for Woodstock. 1 for Banbury. | The produce is chiefly like that in most midland farming counties. Much butter and cheese is made, and numerous calves reared for the London market, which it also supplies with great quantities of corn and malt. The principal manufactures are those of blankets at Witney, and gloves and polished steel at Woodstock. The employment of the poorer class is lace making and spinning. |

This County is comprised within the diocese of Oxford, and province of Canterbury.

AN ITINERARY

OF ALL

THE DIRECT AND PRINCIPAL CROSS ROADS

IN

OXFORDSHIRE.

In which are included the STAGES, INNS, and
GENTLEMEN'S SEATS.

N. B. The first Column contains the Names of Places passed through; the figures that follow show the Distance from Place to Place, Town to Town, and Stages; and in the last Column are the names of Gentlemen's Seats and Inns. The right and left of the Roads are distinguished by the letters R and L.

JOURNEY FROM CLAYDON TO OXFORD, THROUGH BANBURY AND DEDDINGTON.

| | | | |
|---------------------------|----|----|------------------------------------|
| CLAYDON to | | | |
| Mollington | 2 | 2 | |
| Little Bourton | 2 | 4 | |
| BANBURY | 2½ | 6½ | Inns—Red Lion, White Li- |
| <i>At Banbury on</i> | | | <i>on. About two miles to</i> |
| <i>R a T. R. to Chip-</i> | | | <i>the R Wroxton Abbey,</i> |
| <i>ping Norton; on</i> | | | <i>Earl of Guildford.</i> |
| <i>L to Buckingham</i> | | | |
| Weeping Cross | 2 | 8½ | |
| Adderbury | 1 | 10 | Seat of Mrs. Wilkinson. |
| <i>At Adderbury</i> | | | |
| <i>on L a T. R. to</i> | | | |
| <i>Buckingham.</i> | | | |
| DEDDINGTON | 3 | 13 | Inns—King's Arms and |
| <i>At Deddington</i> | | | <i>Three Tuns.</i> |
| <i>on R a T. R. to</i> | | | <i>At North Aston is a seat of</i> |
| <i>Chipping Norton,</i> | | | <i>Oldfield Bowles, esq. L;</i> |
| <i>on L to Bucking-</i> | | | <i>beyond which, at Middle</i> |
| <i>ham.</i> | | | <i>Aston, is the seat of F.</i> |
| | | | <i>Page, esq. L; and a little</i> |
| | | | <i>farther, Sir Clement Cot-</i> |
| | | | <i>terell Dormer, bart. L.</i> |

| | | | |
|--|----|-----|---|
| Hopcroft's Holt | 4 | 17 | |
| <i>At Hopcroft's Holt on R a T. R. to Westcott Barton. On L to Bicester.</i> | | | |
| Sturdis Castle | 3½ | 20½ | <i>Tackley Park, Sir J. W. S. Gardiner, L. Further on is Kirtlington Park, Sir H. W. Dashwood, bart.; beyond which is Blechington Park, Arthur Annesley, esq.</i> |
| <i>Cross the London Road.</i> | | | |
| <i>Cross the Oxford Canal.</i> | | | |
| Kidlington Green | 4 | 24½ | <i>At Woodstock, Blenheim Park, Duke of Marlborough, R.</i> |
| OXFORD | 4½ | 29 | <i>Inns—Angel, King's Arms, Roe Buck, and Star.</i> |

OXFORD TO CAVERSHAM,

THROUGH HENLEY.

| | | | |
|---|----|-----|---|
| OXFORD to | | | |
| Littlemore | 2½ | 2½ | |
| Sandford | ¾ | 3¼ | |
| Nuneham Courtenay | 2 | 5¼ | <i>The seat of the Earl of Harcourt, R.</i> |
| <i>Between Nuneham Courtenay & Dorchester on R a T. R. to Abingdon.</i> | | | |
| Dorchester | 3½ | 8¾ | <i>Baldon House, Lady Wiltoughby.</i> |
| <i>Cross the Thame River.</i> | | | |
| Shillingford | 1¾ | 10½ | <i>On L in the Road to Thame and Aylesbury, Newington House, G. White, esq.</i> |
| <i>On L a T. R. to Aylesbury; on R to Reading.</i> | | | |

| | | | |
|--|----|-----|---|
| Bensington | 1½ | 12 | Brightwell House, W. L. Stone, esq. L. |
| — — — | — | — | Mongwell House, Bishop of Durham, R. |
| Beggar's Bush | 2 | 14 | |
| Nuffield Heath | 2½ | 16½ | Watlington Park, John Tilson, esq. L. |
| At Nuffield Heath on R a T. R. to Wallingford. | | | |
| Nettlebed | 1½ | 18 | |
| Bix | 1¼ | 19¼ | Gray's Court, Lady Stapleton, R; and about three miles on L, Stonor Castle, T. Stonor, esq. |
| Assington Cross | ¾ | 20 | |
| HENLEY | 2 | 22 | Inns—Bell, Red Lion, and White Hart. About one mile from Henley, Park Place, Earl of Malmesbury, R. |
| At Henley on R a T. R. to Reading; on L to Great Marlow. | | | |
| — — — | — | — | Harpsden Court, T. Hall, esq. R |
| Shiplake | 2¾ | 24¾ | Lord Mark Kerr. |
| Caversham | 4¼ | 29 | Caversham Park, Major C. Marsac, R. |

BANBURY TO RADCOT BRIDGE,

THROUGH CHIPPING NORTON AND BURFORD.

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| BANBURY to | | | Inns—Red Lion, and White Lion. |
| At Banbury on L a T. R. to Buckingham; on R to Warwick. | | | About three miles on L Warkworth Castle, F. Eyre, esq.; and about the same distance on R Wroxton Abbey, Earl of Guilford. |
| Bloxham | 3 | 3 | |

*About two miles to the R
Broughton Castle, Lord
Say and Sele.*

South Newington 1½ 4½

*About two miles
from South New-
ington on L a T.
R. to Deddington.*

Pumphery Castle 3¼ 7¾

*About two miles
from Pumphery
Castle on R a T.
R. to Shipston, on
L to Woodstock.*

*Swarford Park, James Smith
Barry, esq. R.*

*Heythorp, Earl of Shrews-
bury, L.*

CHIPPING NOR-
TON 4½ 12

*At Chipping
Norton, on R a T.
R. to Morton-in-
the-Marsh.*

Inn—White Hart.

Shipton Under-
wood 7 19

*Fullbrook
At Fullbrook, on
R a T. R. to Stowe
on the Wold.*

3 22

*Sir — Reade, bart.
Swinbrock, R. Fettiplace,
esq. L.*

*Cross the Wind-
rush River.*

BURFORD 1 23

*At Burford, on
L a T. R. to Bamp-
ton.*

*Inns—Bull, and George.
At Burford, the Priory, J.
Lenthall, esq.*

Blackbourton 5 28

Clanfield 29½

*At Clanfield, on
L a T. R. to Bamp-
ton.*

| | | |
|------------------------|----------------|-----------------|
| Radcot | $1\frac{1}{4}$ | $30\frac{3}{4}$ |
| Radcot Bridge | $\frac{1}{2}$ | $31\frac{1}{4}$ |
| <i>Cross the River</i> | | |
| <i>Isis, and enter</i> | | |
| <i>Berkshire.</i> | | |

LITTLE ROLLEWRIGHT TO STOKEN CHURCH,

THROUGH WOODSTOCK AND OXFORD.

| | | | |
|--|----------------|-----------------|-----------------------------------|
| Little Rollewright to Chapel-house | $2\frac{1}{2}$ | $2\frac{1}{2}$ | <i>H. Dawkins, esq. R.</i> |
| <i>At Chapel-house</i> | | | |
| <i>on L a T. R. to</i> | | | |
| <i>Banbury, quarter</i> | | | |
| <i>of a mile beyond on</i> | | | |
| <i>R to Chipping</i> | | | |
| <i>Norton.</i> | | | |
| — — — | — | — | <i>Heythorpe, Earl of Shrews-</i> |
| | | | <i>bury, L.</i> |
| Enstone | $3\frac{3}{4}$ | $6\frac{1}{4}$ | <i>At Enstone, some curious</i> |
| | | | <i>water-works.</i> |
| Kiddington | $2\frac{3}{4}$ | 9 | <i>Glympton Park, L. Wheate,</i> |
| <i>At Kiddington</i> | | | |
| <i>on L a T. R. to</i> | | | |
| <i>Wheatley Bridge.</i> | | | |
| <i>Two miles beyond</i> | | | |
| <i>Kiddington on R</i> | | | |
| <i>a T. R. to Whitney.</i> | | | |
| WOODSTOCK | $4\frac{1}{4}$ | $13\frac{1}{4}$ | <i>Inns—Bear, and Marlbo-</i> |
| | | | <i>rough Arms.</i> |
| | | | <i>Blenheim House and Park,</i> |
| | | | <i>Duke of Marlborough.</i> |
| Begbrook | $2\frac{1}{2}$ | $15\frac{3}{4}$ | |
| Yarnton | $1\frac{1}{2}$ | $17\frac{1}{4}$ | |
| <i>Cross the Oxford</i> | | | |
| <i>Canal.</i> | | | |
| Wolvercot | $1\frac{1}{2}$ | $18\frac{3}{4}$ | |

| | | | |
|---|-----------------|------------------|--|
| OXFORD | 21 | 21 | Inns— <i>Angel, King's Arms, Roe Buck, and Star.</i> |
| <i>Cross the River Charwell.</i> | | | |
| <i>On R a T. R. to Henley.</i> | | | |
| St. Clement's | $\frac{1}{2}$ | 21 $\frac{3}{4}$ | |
| <i>Beyond St. Clement's on L a T. R. to Wheatley, by Shotover Hill.</i> | | | |
| Headington | 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ | 23 $\frac{1}{4}$ | <i>Headington House, Mrs. Jones</i> |
| Wheatley | 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ | 26 $\frac{3}{4}$ | <i>Shotover House, G. Schutz, esq. R.</i> |
| Wheatley Bridge | 1 | 27 $\frac{3}{4}$ | <i>Holton House and Park, Edmund Biscoe, esq. L.</i> |
| <i>Near Wheatley Bridge on L, a T. R. to Islip.</i> | | | |
| <i>Cross the Thame River.</i> | | | |
| The Three Pigeons | 2 $\frac{3}{4}$ | 30 $\frac{1}{2}$ | <i>Hon. Andrew Foley, R.</i> |
| <i>At the Three Pigeons on R a T. R. to Wallingford, on L to Thame.</i> | | | |
| — — — | — | — | <i>Sir Wm. H. Ashurst, knt. L.</i> |
| Tetsworth | 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ | 33 | |
| Postcombe | 1 $\frac{3}{4}$ | 34 $\frac{3}{4}$ | <i>Lord Charles Spencer, R.</i> |
| <i>A little beyond Postcombe, on L a T. R. to Thame.</i> | | | <i>On L in the road to Thame, Thame Park, Miss Wickham.</i> |
| — — — | — | — | <i>Rowant Aston, General</i> |
| Stoken Church | 4 $\frac{3}{4}$ | 39 | <i>Calland, L. Sherborne</i> |
| <i>Near Stoken Church, on R a T. R. to Marlow.</i> | | | <i>Castle, Earl of Macclesfield, R. Wormsley, J. Fane, esq. R.</i> |

COTESFORD TO OXFORD,

THROUGH MIDDLETON STONEY.

| | | | |
|---|----|-----|---|
| Cotesford to Ardley | 4 | 4 | |
| <i>Between Cotesford and Ardley, on R a T. R. to Adderbury; on L to Bicester.</i> | | | |
| Middleton Stoney | 2½ | 6½ | Middleton Park, Earl of Jersey, R. |
| <i>At Middleton to Stoney, on R a T. R. to Wescott Barton; on L to Bicester.</i> | | | |
| Weston-on-the-Green | 3 | 9½ | Kirtlington Park, Sir Hen. Dashwood, bart. R. |
| <i>On L a T. R. to Bicester, and about one mile and a half farther on R a T. R. to Wotton, and on L to Islip.</i> | | | |
| Gosford Bridge | 4 | 13½ | |
| <i>Cross the Charwell River.</i> | | | |
| Kidlington Turnpike | 2 | 15½ | |
| OXFORD | 3 | 18½ | |

BURFORD TO EVERS HAM,

THROUGH WITNEY.

| | | | |
|----------------------|---|---|--|
| BURFORD to Witney | 7 | 7 | John Lenthall, esq. L. Swinbrook, A. Fettiplace, esq. L. |
|----------------------|---|---|--|

Between Bur-
ford and Witney
on R a T. R. to
Abingdon.

Cross the River
Windrush.

Newland Turn-
pike

At Newland
Turnpike on L a
T. R. to Wood-
stock.

Eynsham

$\frac{1}{2}$ 7 $\frac{1}{2}$

5 12 $\frac{1}{2}$

Eynsham Hall, Col. Parker,
L.

END OF THE ITINERARY.

FAIRS IN OXFORDSHIRE.

- Bampton*.—March 26, and Aug. 26, horses and toys.
- Banbury*.—Thursday after 18 Jan. horses, cows, and sheep; first Thursday in Lent, ditto, and fish; second Thursday before Easter, cattle and sheep; Ascension day, Thursday in Trinity week, Aug. 13, horses, cows, and sheep; Thursday after Old Michaelmas day, hogs and cheese, and hiring servants; Oct. 30, second Thursday before Christmas, cheese, hops, and cattle.
- Bicester*.—Friday in Easter week, Whit-monday, first Friday in June, Aug. 5, December 17, for horses, cows, sheep, pigs, wool, toys, &c.; Friday after Old St. Michael, Oct. 10, for hiring servants.
- Binford*.—Last Saturday in April.
- Burford*.—Last Saturday in April, cattle and sheep; July 5, horses, sheep, cows, and small ware; September 25, cheese and toys.
- Charlbury*.—January 1, second Friday in Lent, second Friday after May 12, except it falls on a Friday, and then the Friday following, cattle of all kinds; October 10, cheese, and all sorts of cattle.
- Chipping Norton*.—March 7, May 6, last Friday in May, July 18, September 4, October 3, statute; November 8, last Friday in November, horses, cows, sheep, lambs, leather, and cheese.
- Deddington*.—August 21, horses and cows; Saturday after Old St. Michael, October 10, statute fair; November 22, horses, cows, and swine.
- Dorchester*.—Easter Tuesday, for pleasure.
- Henley*.—March 7, chiefly horses; Holy Thursday, sheep; Thursday after Trinity Sunday,

horses, &c.; Thursday se'nnight before Oct. 10, cheese.

Hook-Norton.—Second Tuesday after May 12; November 28, horses & cows.

Nettlebed.—Monday after St. Luke, October 18; Tuesday se'nnight after Whitsuntide, small fairs, chiefly toys.

Oxford.—May 3, Monday after St. Giles; September 1, and Thursday before New Michaelmas, for toys, and small ware.

Stokenchurch.—July 10, horses.

Thame.—Easter Tuesday, cattle of all sorts; Old Michaelmas, October 10, horses, fat hogs, and hiring servants.

Watlington.—April 5, Saturday before October 10, cattle and hiring servants.

Wheatley.—September 29, cattle of all sorts, and hiring servants.

Witney.—Thursday in Easter week, cattle of all sorts; April 5, June 29, Thursday after July 9, August 24, Thursday following the Sunday after Sept. 8, Thursday before Oct. 10, November 23, and Thursday after Dec. 1, for cattle and cheese.

Woodcot, near Henley.—August 2, Monday after Nov. 11, sheep, &c.

Woodstock.—April 5, cheese, cattle, and sheep; Tuesday in Whitsun week, horses, hardware, pleasure, &c.; August 2, cherries, &c.; October 2, a great fair for cheese; Tuesday after November 1, cattle, sheep, and cheese; December 17; fat hogs and other cattle, second Tuesday after Candlemas-day, a very large market for cattle.

TITLES

CONFERRED BY THE COUNTY.

Oxford, the county town, gives the title of Earl to the Harley family.—*Woodstock* that of Viscount to

the Bentinck family.—*Burford* that of Earl to the Beauclerks.—*Henley* that of Baron to the Eden family; *Ricot* the same to the Berties.—*Stanton Harcourt*, gives the title of Earl, Viscount, and Baron, to the Harcourts, and *Nuneham* gives the title of Viscount to the same family.—*Heddington* that of Baron to the Beauclerks.—*Nettlebed* the same to the Noels, and *Dorchester* the same title to the Carletons.

THE QUARTER SESSIONS.

The county Assize, and the different Sessions for the city; are held at the city of Oxford, on January 11—April 11—July 11—October 17, as are Court Leets. The petty sessions are held at Watlington.

Hilary Term begins Jan. 14, ends on Saturday before Palm Sunday. *Easter Term* begins on Wednesday after Low Sunday, ends on Thursday before Whitsun-day. *Act Term* begins on Wednesday after Trinity Sunday, ends on Saturday after Act Sunday. *Michaelmas Term* begins Oct. 10, ends Dec. 17.

LIST OF BANKERS IN THE COUNTY.

At Banbury and Shipstone, Thomas Tim, and Thomas Cobb; draw in London upon Williams and Co.—At Bicester, Tubb and Co.; draw in London upon Masterman and Co.—At Chipping Norton, Whitehead and Co.; draw in London upon Glyn and Co.—At Oxford and Woodstock, Cox, Morrell, and Co.; draw in London upon Masterman and Co.—Oxford, (old Bank), Fletcher, Parsons, and Co.; draw in London upon Hammersleys and Co.—Oxford University, Walker, Lock, and Co.; draw in London upon Willis and Co.—Oxford, Tubb and Co.; draw in London upon Masterman and Co.—At Witney, Clench and Son; draw in London upon Masterman and Co.

GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF THE COUNTY OF OXFORD.

SITUATION, BOUNDARIES, AND EXTENT.

OXFORD is an inland county, bounded on the north by Warwickshire and Northamptonshire; on the east by Buckinghamshire, on the south by Berkshire, and on the west by Gloucestershire. The river Cherwell separates Oxfordshire from Northamptonshire on the N. E. While the county of Warwick lies contiguous to the N. W.; Oxfordshire is of a very irregular figure; near the centre of the county of the city of Oxford it is not more than seven miles across, yet in the more northern part, at no great distance, its diameter is thirty-eight miles. Proceeding northward, it assumes the resemblance of a cone, and terminates at what is called the Three Shire Stone, in a complete point or apex.

Its circumference is about 130 miles, containing about 450,000 acres of land.

CLIMATE AND SOIL.

The air is reckoned as healthy as that of any other county in England, for the soil, which is naturally dry, being free from bogs, fens, and stagnant waters, and abounding with quick limpid streams, necessarily renders the air clear and wholesome. The county is cold upon, and near the Chiltern Hills, and Mr. Young, as an Agriculturist, describes this county as containing three distinctions of soil.

NAME AND ANCIENT HISTORY.

This county receives its name from the city of Oxford, generally supposed to have been derived from the Saxon word *Oxenford*, a ford or passage for oxen over the river here. Some writers, however, have supposed the name of the city was *Ousford*, a ford over the Ous. Oxfordshire was anciently inhabited by the Dobune; but on the invasion of Britain by the Romans, it became a part of the pro-

vince termed *Britannia Prima*. During the Hephtharchy it belonged to Mercia, and suffered greatly from the Danes. By William the Norman it was divided among his Barons.

POPULATION.

According to the returns of 1811, there were 22,000 inhabited houses, 59,132 males, and 60,059 females, making a total of 119,191 persons.

Oxfordshire returns nine members to Parliament; viz. two for the county, two for the university, two for Woodstock, and one for Banbury.

ROADS.

The roads in Oxfordshire within the last half century, have been improved beyond all precedent. The two great turnpikes that crossed the county by Witney and Chipping Norton, by Henley and Wycombe, were formerly repaired with stones as large as they could be brought from the quarry, and when broken left so rough as to be calculated for dislocation rather than use. The cross roads were impassable without great danger. But a noble change has taken place, by turnpikes which cross the country in every direction, so that when you are at one town you have a turnpike road to every other town. The parish roads are also much improved; the turnpikes very good, and where gravel is to be had, excellent.

RIVERS.

The rivers of Oxfordshire form the most pleasing feature; natural historians have stated their number at not less than threescore and ten, and have not exaggerated. Each valley of length has its stream, and no district in England is better watered than this. The Thames, the Isis, the Charwell, the Evenlode, and Windrush, among these claim the first rank; but the great pride of the country is, that confluence of the former two which constitute the river Thames. According to Mr. Skrine, after the Colne and Lech have added their tributary forces,

the navigation of this river under the name of Isis properly commences: but it is understood to be long very imperfect from its winding course and its prevailing shallows. The county which it first traverses between Oxford and Berks, is by no means pleasant, as it pursues its way almost unseen in the midst of a plain, first towards the east and afterwards inclining to the north. In this level the Windrush joins it from Burford and Witney; and the more pleasant stream of the Evenlode, pursuing nearly the same direction from the north west, descends from Whichwood Forest, and the great riding of Charlbury, united at last with a smaller stream which forms the great lake in Woodstock park. The Isis thus augmented turns suddenly to the south, washing the ruined walls of Godstow Nunnery. The vale now expands into a spacious amphitheatre, bounded by some striking hills, in the centre of which the majestic towers, domes, and spheres of Oxford, burst upon the sight, appearing proudly ranged behind the thick shade of the venerable groves. Here the Isis divides itself into various small channels as it traverses the meadows of Witham, leaving Oxford on the left, and passing through several handsome stone bridges connected by a grand causeway, which forms its principal approach from the west. These streams soon re-uniting, the river turns round the city towards the north-east, and crossed by an ancient stone bridge, glides beautifully through the enamelled and ornamented meads of Christ Church. A superb walk of elms beneath this spacious college fronts its meadow, over the deep foliage of which the Gothic buildings of Christ church appear in stately pride, as they display themselves gradually with a succession of all the numerous towers of the University, in the descent of the Isis. A little lower it is joined by the Charwell, flowing from the north of Banbury, and passing on the eastern side of Oxford through the arches of the magnificent bridge of Magdalen.

The country becomes now for a while more enclosed, and the numerous plantations surrounding Lord Harcourt's noble seat of Nuneham, are finely opposed by the thick woods of Bagley, in Berkshire. The Chiltern Hills, occupy all along the back-ground at a distance, forming a waving line towards the south, sometimes clothed with thick woods of beech, and at others protruding their chalky sides into the plain. The windings of the river through this great level are frequent, but its direction is mostly southward, a little inclined to the east as it passes through the long straggling town of Dorchester. Somewhat below this, the Thame advances from the north-east to meet it, passing through the ancient bridges of Wheatley and Dorchester, and joining the Isis a little above the point, where the more modern pile of Shillingford bridge crosses both combined. At this junction the Thames first took its name. The Isis, Dr. Sibthorpe observes, may be considered rather as a poetical than a strict appellation, for that part of the river Thames which runs near Oxford. In the old MSS. grants from the crown, the river here spoken of under the title of Isis, is positively called the Thames, and he had in his possession a very ancient grant from the Crown of the Manor of Sutton, to the famous Roger Mortimer, giving him a right of fishery in the river Thames, and describing its boundaries by the names which they have yet retained in the parish of Stanton Harcourt.

After it quits Wallingford, the scenery assumes a thousand fresh graces of aspect. The river now forms an indented valley through the range of the Cotteswold hills, which losing insensibly their downish character, become at last adorned with most of the varied beauties of nature and art. High beech woods cover their sides and summits, while rich meadows attend the descent of the river. Towns and villages are sprinkled about in all directions, and magnificent seats appear on the heights that over-

hang the Oxfordshire and Berkshire banks. The valley formed by the Thames, near Reading, extends into a rich plain, full of verdure, woods, and population. The Kennet here joins its tributary waters, and somewhat lower the Loddon brings a further increase. The Thames thus augmented, swells into a majestic river full of commercial craft, and glides in a broad silver mirror through the plain, till it becomes engulfed amidst the fine chain of hills surrounding Henley. A more beautifully marked country than this cannot easily be formed by the most romantic fancy; and nature has placed this British paradise within forty miles of the capital of our country, to decorate the banks of its principal river. The Thames throughout divides the counties of Oxford and Buckingham from Berkshire. Among the splendid seats of our nobility that of Lord Malmesbury bears a strong pre-eminence, covering several bold hills with its plantations. Immediately below, the handsome town of Henley covers the Oxfordshire banks, whose lofty flint tower and elegant stone bridge form distinguished objects from which ever side they are viewed. The Thames afterwards flowing between Middlesex and Surrey, and by Essex and Kent, forms a junction with the Medway at the Nore, where both combined are lost in the German Ocean.

The Charwell rises in Northamptonshire, and enters Oxford near Claydon, a village on the northern extremity of the county; whence it runs to the south by Banbury, and falls into the Thames or Isis, a little below Oxford.

The Evenlode rises in the north-east part of Worcestershire, near a town of its own name, not far from Stowe-in-the-Wold a market-town in Gloucestershire; and, running south-east, enters Oxfordshire, not far from the shire-stones; and passing by Charlbury, falls into the Thames, about four miles above Oxford.

The Windrush rises in Coteswold Hills, in Gloucestershire, and running south-east enters Oxford-

shire not far from Burford, and passing Witney, falls into the Thames at Northmoor, five miles to the west of Oxford.

The Thame rises near Tring in Hertfordshire, and crossing Buckinghamshire touches the borders of Oxfordshire at Thame, as before observed.

FISHING.

The edible fish produced by the Thames, while it remains with Oxfordshire, are chiefly pike, chubb, barbel, perch, eels, roach, dace, and gudgeons. Salmon are sometimes found as straggling visitors, even in the higher precincts of the river; and Dr. Plott mentions, as a curious native of the Isis, a fish, locally termed the *Pride*, of the long cartilaginous smooth kind, having a mouth cut neither perpendicularly downward, nor transversely, but hollowed as it were between two cheeks, without an under jaw. On the top of its head it has *one*, and on each side *seven* holes, that supply the place of gills. It moves by a winding impulse of its body, without the help of any other fins but those at the tail. The great quantity of the more valuable sort of fish formerly met with in this river is confirmed, by the mention made by this writer of fifteen hundred jacks, besides other fish, taken in the course of two days. The increase of drainage certainly operates in producing a decrease of the fish.

CANALS.

The Birmingham canal is of immense importance to Oxfordshire, immediately connecting London, through Oxford, with Birmingham, Manchester, and Liverpool, and with the Wednesbury collieries.

This canal commences at Longford, in the northern extremity of Warwickshire, on the edge of the Coventry canal, between Claydon and the three-shire stone, and passing through the villages of Anstey, Brinklow, Newbold, and Hill Morton, enters Northamptonshire, and running near Barby and Braunston, again returns to Warwickshire near Wolthamcote, and passing Lower Shackburg and Wormleighton, enters Oxfordshire near Claydon,

passes Banbury, Alderbury, Somerton, Heyford, Purcell, Shepton in Charwell, Begbrook, Wolvershott, and joins the Isis at Oxford. In the last 30 miles this canal has a fall of 186 feet.

FARM HOUSES AND COTTAGES.

In the former there is nothing material to distinguish them from those of the neighbouring counties. To the latter there are gardens, and good ones, to nine-tenths of them in the county. Some years since the cottagers had no potatoes; now all have them; formerly they liked cabbage only with their bacon, now the potatoe is adopted. Sir Christopher Willoughby's cottages have not had their rents raised for a century; but about Henley cottagers pay from three to five pounds per annum.

The exertions of the Bishop of Durham, in building cottages, have been highly meritorious. Six pairs of them, raised by his Lordship, have each a very good garden and conveniences for pigs. Two guineas is the rent paid for them, as rent in money is not the object, but to place the cottager in such a state of ease and comfort as shall tend to habits of industry, sobriety, and honesty. Every labourer, employed by the Bishop, is permitted to lodge, after harvest, in the bailiff's hands, 1l. 11s. 6d., and in consequence of his readiness to make this reserve, he is allowed, the following winter, to purchase barley at two shillings a bushel under the market price, or any other product of the farm at a proportionable deduction. But his Lordship has also established a village shop at Mongewell, at which the working people, and all the other poor, may buy whatever they want at a reduced price for ready money. The wives and daughters, also, receive as much flax as they please, which being returned after it is spun into thread, they are paid the full price for spinning it, according to the fineness of the spinning. This is woven into cloth, and sold to the cottagers two-pence a yard lower than the common price. The following good effects are also

enumerated by Mr. Arthur Young as resulting from the attachment of land to cottages. "It has not, in one instance, failed of giving an industrious turn, even to some who were before idle and profligate. Their attention, in nursing up young trees, has been so much beyond what a farmer, intent upon greater objects, can or will bestow, that the value of the orchards is increased to forty shillings per acre on land, which was of less than half the value in its former state. And the poor's rates have, from this cause, fallen to four-pence in the pound, whilst other parishes are assessed from two and six-pence to five shillings in the pound. The stock of some of these cottagers consists of a cow, a yearling heifer, or a mare to breed, a sow and thirty or forty geese. This, therefore, has been the means of bringing a supply of poultry and fruit to the market; of increasing population, and making the land produce double the rent a farmer can afford to give."

Combining these advantages of very light rents, good gardens, plenty of pigs, stocks of bees, (one originally given to each cottage,) and the farm products at an easy price, these families are placed in a situation productive of good morals. None of them require any aid from the parish.

The size of farms varies so much that it is difficult to speak on that head; but they may be considered generally speaking, as less than in most parts of England, and Mr. Young thought them too small to be consistent with good husbandry. In the forest district there are many farms, from 20 to 80l. per ann.; but the average of the rest is from 250l. to 300l. In the rich Thame district, farms do not exceed 300 acres.

LEASES.

Some individuals may be found who grant leases for fourteen, or even for twenty one years; but in general seven years form the extent of the allotted term. In the neighbourhood of Chipping Norton none are

granted, or next to none. The longest is six years, prescribing the six crops; but commonly nothing more than an agreement violable in many cases at six months' notice. Many of the great landholders in all parts of the county, will grant no lease whatever, and in several districts the tenant is happy to avail himself of a permission to cultivate with legal security the four crops usually successive on his land. This system operates prejudicially on the public weal, but it has been presumed, that the day must undoubtedly come, when the Oxfordshire landlord and renter will perceive that the advancement of public benefit is a mutual accommodation to themselves.

TITHES.

These are various in this county: a few Rectors have one in fifteen, and others one in twenty. This arose from different endowments; half the tithe was settled on the Rector, and the other half, perhaps, given to some religious house, and on the suppression of monasteries came into lay-hands. In most of the enclosures about Bicester, one-ninth, and one-fifth, have been given for tithe. The Commissioners fixed the bushels payable by each person according to the quality of the land, and the price is regulated every year on that of Oxford market, at Lady Day and Michaelmas. The usual composition for arable land, may be stated at one-fourth of the rent.

IMPLEMENTS.

Threshing Mills are general in this county; but the fashionable scarefiers and scufflers of London have been tried and exploded. The plough most generally used, is the two-wheeled one, the beam resting on a pretty high fore carriage; and the one-wheeled plough the beam low. The skim coulter is also used, and for certain objects found very useful. The skim plough has also been much admired, for ploughing turnip land for barley, and clover lay for wheat. The threshing mills are generally of great power.

ENCLOSURES.

These have been the capital improvement of the

county; for, proportionably to the extent of it, more land has been taken in, in the course of half a century, than in any other county in England. Though enclosures have doubled rents, the latter are paid with more ease than formerly, and the produce of food for man is greatly increased. Stone walls are used at Wendleburg, and these are made durable against frosts by having a foot thick in the middle laid with mortar or road dust, &c.

In riding over the forest of Whichwood, Mr. Young found many beautiful scenes, particularly where the *nut fair*, is held; a glen by Mr. Dacre's lodge, and others approaching Blandford Park. There are vales also of the finest turf. Several of these scenes want nothing but water to form the most pleasing and finished landscapes. Lord Francis Spencer, whilst ranger, made several roads by way of ridings; but an enclosure, it is thought, would make a large tract of good land productive to the public. The morals of the county too are said to demand it, this vicinity being filled with poachers, deer stealers, thieves, and pilferers, of every kind, so that Oxford gaol would be quite uninhabited, were it not for this fertile source of crimes. The poor rates too in the parishes that surround the forest, and have a right of commonage, are higher than in others under similar circumstances, except in that of being cut off from the forest.

WASTES.

Except the dreary district of Otmoor, and the extensive wilds appertaining to the forest of Whichwood, the waste land of Oxfordshire is comparatively small. The common of Otmoor is situate near Islip, and contains about 4000 acres, the whole of which lie nearly on a level, and are completely inundated in wet seasons. Eight adjoining townships possess a right of commonage on this dismal tract; but as this right is possessed without *stint*, the abuses are very great. The cottager appears to reap the greatest benefit from Otmoor; though he turns out little

except geese; but the coarse aquatic sward of this waste is well suited to the wants of his flock. In the purlieus of Whichwood forest there are extensive tracts of waste ground, the commonage of which is confined by right to horses and sheep. The other commons of this county are chiefly to be found among the Chiltern hills.

CATTLE.

The intelligence relative to cattle in this county is not locally interesting. It has no breed of its own, nor any peculiar race so prominent as to afford much information that is particularly valuable. Much of the county is arable, and in the very narrow districts, where grass prevails, there is not any thing remarkable in the breed or appearance of the cattle. Many boars are fed for the purpose of making brawn, which, with matting, forms a considerable article of trade at Oxford and other parts of the county.

MANUFACTURES.

Witney, formerly noted for the weaving manufactory, has declined considerably; not one-fourth of the number of people being now employed as formerly were. Add to this, their earnings are very low. However, the spinning jennies, and other machinery, especially the spring looms, being introduced, afforded at least a temporary relief, gave a turn to business, and till the late peace, rendered the place very flourishing; still the low wages precluded the poor of this place from every thing but a very small share in that prosperity which pervaded the kingdom, and so greatly raised the general wages of labour. At Thame a little lace is made, and the polished steel manufactory at Woodstock has been completely out rivalled by the machinery of Birmingham and Sheffield. That of gloves and leather breeches has been more fortunate. The employment of women on the south side of the county is lace making; but in the middle, and northward side, spinning is the general occupation.

LITERATURE AND LEARNED MEN.

Baron Carleton Dudley was born 1573, and died Viscount Dorchester in 1631.—Chillingworth was born at Oxford in 1602. Sir William Davenant the poet was born at Oxford in 1605.—Sir George Etherege, another dramatic writer, was born about 1636, and died in 1683.—Dr. Peter Heylin was born at Burford in 1609, and died in 1662.—Sir John Holt was born in 1642, and died in 1710, his integrity and uprightness as a judge has been long acknowledged by his grateful countrymen.—Dr. John Owen was born at Hadham in 1616; he was Chaplain to Cromwell.—John Philips, author of ‘The Splended Shilling,’ was born at Brampton in 1676.—Dr. Edward Pocock, a learned critic and commentator, was born at Oxford in 1604, and died in 1691.—Anthony Wood, an eminent antiquary and biographer, was born at Oxford in 1632, and died in 1695.

NEWSPAPERS.

Two newspapers, the *Oxford Journal* and the *Oxford Herald*, are published in this city weekly; the first, and older of the two, having been established 64 years. The first newspaper published at Oxford was *Mercurius Rusticus*, which commenced on the 22d of April, 1642. This was succeeded by the *Mercurius Aulicus*, *Mercurius Britannicus*, *Mercurius Pragmaticus*, and *Mercurius Politicus*, the last of which was discontinued about the middle of April, 1660. These were followed by the *Parliamentary Intelligencer*, *Mercurius Publicus*, the *Public Intelligencer*, and the *Oxford Gazette*. The last commenced on the 7th of November, 1665, the King and Queen and the Court being then at Oxford; but when this removed to London, the newspaper in question assumed the name of the *London Gazette*, the first number of which appeared on the 5th of February, 1666.

CIVIL AND ECCLESIASTICAL DIVISIONS.

This county is divided into fourteen hundreds viz. Bampton, Banbury, Binfield, Bloxam, Bulling-

ton, Chedlington, Dorchester, Ewelme, Langtree, Lewknor, Pirton, Ploughley, Thame, and Wooton ; having one City and University, two boroughs, Banbury and Woodstock, ten market-towns, and 207 parishes. The diocese of Oxford is in the province of Canterbury. It is included in the Oxford circuit.

TOPOGRAPHICAL DESCRIPTION OF OXFORDSHIRE.

Journey from Claydon to Oxford; through Banbury and Deddington.

THE village of CLAYDON is situated at the northern extremity of the county, about one mile and a half from the turnpike road, and 78 from London. This village is noted for a small spring, which flows all the year, but most plentifully in the driest weather. A little to the eastward of this spring are three stones, called the three shire stones, one of them being situated in this county, another in Northamptonshire, and the third in Warwickshire.

At CLATTERCOTE, a small village near Claydon, was anciently a priory of Gilbertine monks, founded in the reign of King John. Part of this ancient structure is still standing, having been converted into a dwelling-house.

About two miles to the south-west of Claydon, and on the right of the turnpike road, is the village and part of the parish of MOLLINGTON, the remaining part being in the parish of Farnborough, in the county of Warwick ; Mollington is situated 76 miles from London.

Proceeding southwards, at the distance of about two miles from the last-mentioned village, we pass through Little Bourton, a hamlet belonging to GREAT BOURTON, situated about half a mile northward, and containing about 100 houses.

About one mile to the east of Bourton, is the village of CROPREDY, and about one mile farther eastward, is the township of WARDINGTON.

Returning to the turnpike road, at the distance

of two miles and a half from Bourton, we arrive at BANBURY, a borough and market-town, situated on the river Charwell, being 75 miles and a half from London. This town was incorporated by Queen Mary, in return for its adherence to her against Lady Jane Grey, but its privileges were greatly enlarged by James II. and it obtained a new charter from George I. being now governed by twelve aldermen and six capital burgesses; and returns one member to parliament. A castle was built here in the year 1125, by Alexander, bishop of Lincoln, which was entirely destroyed in the civil wars of Charles I. The Church is large, though not handsome, having lately been rebuilt; besides which, there are two meeting-houses for Protestant dissenters, a Free School, two Charity Schools, and Alms-houses for ten poor widows. The pasture land hereabouts is particularly good, and the town was noted even in Camden's time, for its good cheese, and also for its cakes and ale. In an adjacent field Roman coins have frequently been discovered, and the *Pyrites Aureus*, or golden fire-stone, is found in great quantities. The weekly market on Thursday is reckoned the best in the county for corn, cattle, and all kinds of provisions; besides which it has seven annual fairs; those for hiring servants being called *Mop* fairs.

The town of Banbury, according to the late returns, contained 582 houses, and 2,841 inhabitants.

About one mile to the north-west of Banbury, is the small village of DRAYTON, beyond which is the parish of WROXTON, situated 78 miles from London; and adjoining this village is WROXTON PRIORY, now a seat of the Earl of Guilford. It was founded by Michael Belet, an ecclesiastic, in the reign of King John, for canons of the order of St. Augustine, valued in the survey, 26 Henry VIII. at 78l. 13s. 4½d. It afterwards became the property of Sir T. Pope, founder of Trinity College, Oxford, and by him given to that foundation; of them it is

held by the Earl of Guilford, and used by him as a residence.

About one mile to the north-east of the last mentioned place is the village of HANWELL.

A short distance to the north-west of Hanwell, are the villages of HORLEY and HORNTON.

Returning to the turnpike-road, at the distance of two miles from Banbury, to the right of our road, is the village of BODICOT. One mile to the south of which we pass through the pleasant village of ADDERBURY, formerly respectable from a number of noble and genteel inhabitants, as there are several seats in it, among which is the noble modern-built mansion of the Duke of Buccleugh, who is lord of the manor; and another fine old house, formerly the seat of the Cobbs, Barts. with several other good old houses, but neither of the two former are inhabited, except by servants.

Proceeding southward, at the distance of three miles from the last-mentioned village, is the ancient town of DEDDINGTON, formerly a corporation town, and in the reigns of Edward I. and III. sent members to parliament, but never since. It is at present governed by a bailiff chosen annually. The church is a large and handsome structure, with a strong tower, in which is a ring of six new well-toned bells. Here was formerly a castle, to which the Earl of Pembroke conducted Piers de Gaveston, and there abandoned him to the fury of his enemies; of this castle, however, there are few vestiges remaining. Here is a good Charity School; and a market on Saturday, with three annual fairs. In the neighbourhood are two noted springs, celebrated for their medicinal virtues: one of which is strongly impregnated with sulphur; and in digging of it was found the stone called pyrites argenteus, and a bed of belemnites, commonly called thunder bolts; and out of it has since been taken the silver marcasite, of a glistening colour. The Oxford Canal passes near this place, which is of great advantage

to the inhabitants, having considerably reduced the price of coals. The town was formerly celebrated for the goodness of its malt liquor, from whence it obtained the appellation of *Drunken Deddington*. It is situated 69 miles from London, and contains 252 houses, and 1,296 inhabitants.

About two miles to the north-west of Deddington, is the village of BARFORD.

On leaving Deddington, and proceeding southward, at the distance of about two miles, we pass by the villages of DUNSTON, and NORTH ASTON, the former of which is situated to the right of the road, the latter, to the left. At this village is a seat belonging to Oldfield Bowles, Esq.

To the south of the last-mentioned place, are the villages of MIDDLE and STREEPLE ASTON. Near this village is a petrifying spring, the water of which cases the grass, moss, and other vegetable substances in its way, with a stony kind of slime, which, while it hardens, consumes the substance it has fastened upon, so that nothing but the petrifying case remains.

Returning to the turnpike road, and proceeding in a southerly direction, at the distance of about eight miles from Deddington, we pass by the village of TACKLEY, situated to the left of the road. About four miles beyond which is the village of KIDLINGTON. About five miles from hence, and 17 from Deddington, we arrive at the city of

OXFORD.

Till of late years even the great roads leading to this venerable seat of the Muses, were rough and heavy in the best weather; but now, from what point soever the traveller advances upon Oxford, he finds his approach facilitated by spacious roads kept in excellent repair. The principal entrances to the city are all likewise good; that from the metropolis is magnificent, and naturally claims priority of estimation. Two great roads lead from the capital to Oxford; one of which runs by Henley on Thames,

and the other by High, or Chipping Wycombe. They both converge upon the small church of St. Clement in the eastern suburb, whence the advance of a few yards, in a westerly direction, leads to a view of the city singularly rich and captivating, which is pleasantly seated on a rising eminence, till of late surrounded by meadows, at the conflux of the rivers Isis and Charwell. The antiquity of this city is very great, and it is even asserted by some ancient writers to have been built by Memphric, king of the Britons, 1009 years before the Christian era. It was formerly surrounded with walls, and defended by a strong castle, and appears to have been burnt four times by the Danes; but on its surrender to William the Conqueror, in the year 1067, it was given to Robert de Oilge, who rebuilt the walls and castle in the year 1071, which from its ruins appears to have been of great extent and strength. In this castle the Empress Maud was so closely besieged by King Stephen, that she was forced to escape by night across the frozen Thames, through his army, and afterwards travel six miles on foot, in a deep snow. All the remains of this castle are the tower, diminishing as it ascends, and now forming part of the county gaol; the moat, with a vaulted magazine, now a store-cellar; and part of a wall, ten feet thick. In the court are the remains of the hall, where was held, in the year 1577, the Black Assize, so called from an infectious distemper brought by the prisoners, whereof nearly 100 persons died.—Some remains of a palace, built by Henry the First, on a spot called Beaumont, are likewise visible at the western part of the town. In this palace Richard I. surnamed Cœur de Lion, was born. The principal monastic establishments in this city were St. Frideswida's and Oseney Abbeys; but on the dissolution of religious houses, Henry VIII. in the year 1542, converted Oxford into a see, extending over the county, which formerly was included in the diocese of Lincoln.

The present circuit of Oxford, including the suburbs, is about three miles, though that part of the town properly denominated the city, and originally enclosed with walls, is not more than two miles in circumference, and of an oblong figure. The suburbs are most considerable on the north, east, and west sides; the walls, from that part of them, which remains as a boundary to New College on the north and east, appear to have been embattled with bastions at 150 feet distance from each other. The walls likewise with their battlements, serve as a fence to Merton College on the south and east; besides which a few detached fragments of them are discernible at other places.

The principal street, called High-street, is said to be the most beautiful in the world, both for length, breadth, and elegance of sweep. It derives its principal grandeur from the fronts of three magnificent colleges, and two churches, and every turn presents a new set of objects, till the last terminates in Magdalen College Tower, and a noble bridge over the Charwell: this street, under different names, runs the whole length of the city, from east to west.

The next considerable street, called Fish-street, leads from Carfax to Folly Bridge, over the Isis, on which formerly stood the turret, called Friar Bacon's study. This street is adorned with the stately front of Christ Church, which is extended to the length of 382 feet.

St. Giles's street is of extraordinary breadth, and from the trees on both sides, has the appearance of an elegant village. On the east side stands St. John's College; and the town, as well as the street, is terminated at this end by St. Giles's Church.

In a field, immediately to the north of the Infirmary, stands the Astronomical Observatory, begun in the year 1771, and finished at the expense of 30,000*l.* under the directions of the trustees of Dr. Radcliffe's estate. The field in which it is erected, consisting of ten acres, was given by the Duke of

Marlborough for that purpose. The edifice is 175 feet six inches in length from east to west; its breadth at each wing 24 feet; and in the centre 57 from north to south, exclusive of an elegant portico in the south front, which projects about six feet from the building; the wings are 22 feet in height to the top of the moulding, between the wings and the north front, springs a semicircle, the radius of which is about 37 feet, and its height from the ground 51 feet, which includes the hall, with two adjoining libraries on the ground-floor; the staircase, and the lecture-room, with two adjoining rooms, on the next story. The third story consists of an octangular tower (executed after the model of the celebrated temple of the eight winds at Athens), the elevation of which, including the figure of Atlas, placed on the roof, is upwards of fifty feet; so that the height of the central part of this building is more than 100 feet. The eastern wing contains, in three rooms, a very complete set of astronomical instruments, fixed in the plane of the meridian, all made by the late celebrated artist, Mr. John Bird, at the expense of more than 1,100*l.* consisting of two quadrants, each of eight feet radius, a transit instrument of eight feet, and a zenith sector of twelve; in the western wing is placed a set of smaller instruments for the use of the students, and such gentlemen as choose to apply themselves to practical astronomy. The dwelling house for the professor is commodiously connected with the western wing of the observatory, by an elegant covered way: the present professor of astronomy, Thomas Hornsby, D. D. was appointed to that situation in the year 1763. Towards the lower part of the field stands a small circular building, with a moveable roof, in which is placed an equatorial sector, for the purposes of observing the places of the heavenly bodies at any distance from the meridian. His Grace the Duke of Marlborough, at the same time that he gave to the Radcliffe trustees the piece of ground

for the several purposes of this observatory, also presented to the University a reflecting telescope of twelve feet, made by the late James Short, which is said to have cost upwards of 1000*l*. For the reception of this instrument a detached building, with a moveable roof, is intended to be erected. The situation of this observatory is extremely advantageous, as it commands an extensive horizon, and is scarcely ever incommoded by the smoke of the city. The whole of this elegant structure was executed under the inspection of the late Mr. Wyatt.

The principal bridges are Magdalen Bridge, over the Charwell, being 526 feet in length; at the foot of which stands Magdalen College, situated at the entrance of the town from the London road; High Bridge, or Hithe Bridge, in the western suburb, over the Isis, consisting of three arches; and Folly Bridge, over the same river, in the southern suburb, leading to Abingdon in Berkshire; and likewise consisting of three arches. The whole of these bridges are entirely built with stone.

On the latter bridge, as before observed, formerly stood a tower, which, says Mr. Grose, tradition relates to have been the study of Friar Bacon, an eminent mathematician, who lived in the latter end of the 13th century, and whose superior abilities (such was the ignorance and superstition of the times) brought on him the imputation of being a magician. Among other ridiculous stories told of him, it is said that by his art he so constructed this his study, that it would have fallen, if a more learned man than himself had passed under it.

The city of Oxford, with its suburbs and liberties, contains fourteen parishes, viz. St. Mary's, All Saints, St. Martin's, or Carfax, St. Aldate's, St. Ebb's, St. Peter's in the east, Holywell, St. Giles's; St. Thomas's, St. John's, and St. Clement's. The most remarkable of these churches are St. Mary's, All Saints, St. Peter's, and St. John's.

St. Mary's, where the University resort to attend

divine service, is situated on the north of the High Street, and is a finely-proportioned Gothic pile.—It was rebuilt in the reign of Henry VII. and consists of three aisles, with a spacious choir or chancel, which is separated from the nave by an organ, with its gallery. The pulpit is placed in the centre of the middle aisle, and at the west end of the same aisle is situated the vice-chancellor's throne, below which are accommodations for the different ranks and degrees of the students. On the west end, with a return to the north and south, are galleries for the under graduates, and bachelors of arts. The tower, with its spire, is a noble and beautiful fabric, 180 feet in height, and richly ornamented with pinnacles, niches, and statues, which, according to Plott, were added by King, the first bishop of Oxford, in the reign of Henry VIII. It contains six remarkably large bells, by which notice is given for the scholastic exercises, convocations, &c. On the south side is a portal of more modern structure, erected in the year 1637, by Dr. Owen, chaplain to Archbishop Laud. Over it is a statue of the Virgin, with an infant Christ, holding a small crucifix; which last circumstance was formed into an article of impeachment against the archbishop by the Presbyterians, and urged as a corroborative proof of his attachment to popery. The choir above-mentioned was built about the year 1462, by Walter Hart, bishop of Norwich. The room on the north side of this choir, formerly a library, has lately been converted into a law school, for the lectures of the Vinerian professor.

The Church of All Saints, situated on the same side of the street, is an elegant modern structure, beautified both within and without with Corinthian capitals, and finished with an attic story and balustrade. There is no pillar in the church, though it is 72 feet long, 42 wide, and 50 high. The spire, and the whole of the internal as well as external decorations, are completed in the finest style of

architecture, from a design of Dr. Aldrich, formerly dean of Christchurch.

St. Peter's in the East, adjoining the High Street, is composed of free-stone, and has a nave and side aisle, with a chancel abutting, on which is another aisle that extends to the north. The length, exclusively of the chancel, is about seventy-six feet, and the width forty-two. The chancel is 39 feet in length; at the west end is a square tower, having on each side a small pointed window not glazed. The part towards the east is the only remains of the Saxon fabric; the other divisions being evidently of a more recent date, and are supposed by Hearne to have been rebuilt in the reign of Henry V. In the centre of the east end is a pediment, and at each corner a turret rounded towards the top, and capped with a conical roofing of stone-work. The chief window is pointed, and more modern than the wall in which it is inserted; but on the south are a window and several small pillars and mouldings completely Saxon. Part of a large Saxon window on the other side is obscured by a tasteless mass of stone and mortar, appropriated to the uses of a vestry room. The front in this church is embowered in a representation of the forbidden tree, supported by two unaltered figures, intended for Adam and Eve. In a window on the north is a fanciful symbol of the Trinity.

Beneath the chancel is a crypt in excellent preservation, the arches of which are supported by four ranges of short Saxon pillars. In a vault under this chancel St. Grimbald, the supposed founder of the church, intended his remains should rest; but when the dispute arose between him and the scholars, he indignantly removed his monumental preparations to Winchester. Thomas Hearne the antiquary lies in this church-yard; his stone was repaired in 1754 by Dr. Rawlinson. This used to be the university church, but it is now only attended by that respectable body in the afternoon during Lent.

The Church of St. John is a majestic Gothic edi-

fice, with a tower, in which are eight bells. Its choir or inner chapel, is the longest of any in the University, that of New College excepted. It had once an organ, yet without any regular institution for choir service, before the present stalls and wainscot were put up. The painted glass in the east window, which is by a modern hand, is particularly handsome. The anti-chapel is proportionably spacious, and was originally much larger. Near the altar are the monuments of Sir Thomas Bodley and Sir Henry Savile; and on the right hand of the choir door is that of the late warden Dr. Wintle, and his sister, which is handsomely executed. This church, according to a manuscript of Wood, was built about the year 1424, on the ruins of a very ancient pile.

St. Mary Magdalen's Church is divided into a nave, two aisles, and a chancel. On the south is a chantry built originally by Hugh, Bishop of Lincoln, in 1194; but renewed by King Edward III., and dedicated to the Holy Virgin, whose statue formerly stood here on a pedestal. On the north side is another chantry, supposed to have been built by Dergoville, the foundress of Baliol College. Over the west end of the church rises an embattled tower.

St. Giles's was erected in the twelfth century, as some writers suppose on the site of an ancient British temple; it contains a nave, chancel, and two aisles. The south aisle opens to a chapel founded by one of the Fitzwarrens of Walton, and dedicated to St. Mary the Virgin. At the west end is an embattled tower.

Holywell is a chapel dedicated to the Holy Cross, appertaining to St. Peter's in the east. This chapel consists of one aisle and a chancel, with an attached chantry belonging to the Virgin Mary. This is supposed to have been erected by Robert de Oilge, the Norman governor of Oxford, appointed by the Conqueror.

St. Michael's originally belonged to the canons of St. Frideswida; but was united to All Saints church

by the Bishop of Lincoln in 1429. The tower is very ancient, and appears to be rapidly sinking under the weight of years. The other parts are of more modern date, and contain a chancel, a nave, and two aisles.

On the site of St. Peter's in the Bailey, stood a very ancient structure which fell down in 1726. The present church was opened in 1740, and is a respectable stone building. The nave is spacious, and has an aisle on each side. A gallery has been added by the benefaction of Daniel Flexney, a carpenter, and the internal decorations are of a suitable and unassuming character.

Carfax, or St. Martin's, is descended by several steps, and is composed of a nave, two narrow aisles, and a chancel. Over the west end is a tower formerly more lofty, but reduced to its present dimensions in the reign of Edward III., in consequence of a complaint made by the scholars that the towns people would retire thither "in time of combat," and annoy them with stones and arrows, as from a castle. There is no record of the foundation of this church. The tutelar saint was Bishop of Tours, and died in the year 399.

St. Clement's is a small church in the eastern suburb, consisting of one aisle and a chancel. Over the west end is a low tower capped with tiles.

The church of St. Ebbs, was dedicated to the memory of Ebbe, daughter of Ethelfred, King of Northumberland, who died in 683. It contains a nave, north aisle, and chancel.

St. Aldate's is often, by a strange perversion of terms, called St. Olds! St. Aldate was a British saint of the fifth century; and the first church erected on this spot was of wood, and is supposed to have been constructed before the Saxons bore sway. The edifice was afterwards re-founded, and used as a cloister to receive persons training for the priory of St. Frideswida and Abingdon Abbey. The

present church is an irregular structure, composed at various periods.

The church of St. Thomas was founded in 1141, by the canons of Osney, and was first dedicated to St. Nicholas. Its present appellation it derived from Thomas a Becket—Over the west end is an embattled tower.

One of the best improvements of Oxford, was the opening of the narrow and incommodious passage at Eastgate. At Carfax in the centre of the city, many buildings were also removed in order to continue the principal street, which leads to the Botley road, now completely finished, on a superb plan, as it contains no less than seven bridges, built with hewn stone, in the compass of one mile. Northgate, usually called Bocardo, the only city gate of late years remaining, has also been pulled down; so that the Corn Market and St. Giles's, being now connected, are thrown into one long and noble street. The general market is a commodious range of buildings, completed in 1774. There are three divisions for the different classes of purveyors. The first, which has three approaches from the north side of the High Street, is entirely occupied by butchers. The second has stalls for the venders of poultry, bacon, &c. and the third is allotted to the sale of vegetables and fruit. An arcade with ranges of shops proceeds along the whole of the outside; and the interior of the market is aired by three avenues across, and one up the centre. Provisions, excellent in their respective kinds, are to be had here in abundance. At the south entrance from the High Street, it contains several commodious shops for butchers. North of these are others equally commodious, occupied by gardeners, &c. between which are two spacious colonnades for poultry, eggs, bacon, cheese, &c. &c. divided into stalls; and beyond these, extending quite to Jesus' College Lane, is a large area for fruit, and divers other commodities. There are

likewise three avenues running through in direct lines, intersected by another in the middle, affording a free currency of air ; and in the front four elegant and commodious houses have been erected, which give an additional ornament to the High-street. The open part of the market, fronting Jesus' College, is inclosed by an iron palisade ; and the avenues opening upon the new parade in the High-street are secured by iron gates. 'The whole extent of the ground appropriated to the purpose of erecting this market is, from north to south, 347 feet, and from east to west 112. The markets are on Wednesdays and Saturdays. The Vice Chancellor being empowered to superintend the markets, inspect weights and measures, punish forestallers, appoints two clerks of the Market from the Masters of Arts and Bachelors of Divinity, Law, and Medicine.

The municipal government of the city is vested in a mayor, high steward, recorder, four aldermen, eight assistants, two bailiffs, a town clerk, two chamberlains, and 24 common-council. The mayor for the time being, officiates in the buttry at the coronation of the kings and queens of England, and has a large gilt bowl and cover for his fee,

The magistracy of Oxford is subject to the chancellor or vice chancellor of the University, in all affairs of moment, even those relating to the city ; and the vice-chancellor administers annually an oath to the magistrates and sheriffs, that they will maintain the privileges of the University.

Pennyless Bench, where the farmers now assemble and sell their corn by sample, is near Quatrevoix, or Carfax, where some feint traces of this once celebrated seat still remains. Here, says Sir J. Peshall, the mayor and his brethren met occasionally on public affairs ; and if history and tradition inform us rightly, this was frequently the seat of the Muses, and many wits were benchers here. Mr. John Philips, author of the *Splendid Shilling*, was no

stranger to this inspiring spot ; as it is inferred from the panegyric on Oxford ale :

Beneath thy shelter Pennyless I quaff

The cheering cup.

The city of Oxford is well paved—Magdalen Bridge, or that over which the town is entered from the east, is an elegant stone building 526 feet in length, built in 1779 at the expense of eight thousand pounds. The bridge over the Isis in the western suburb, consists of three substantial arches ; and on the south is another bridge over the same river, on which stood, till within a few years, a lofty tower, commonly called Friar Bacon's study. This was a watch tower built in the reign of King Stephen, though it is not less probable that Bacon was frequently in the habit of ascending this venerable tower for the purpose of making astronomical remarks.

The town and county hall where the assizes are held is a spacious stone building with a range of rustic work in the lower division of the front, and a pediment over the centre. The whole space beneath the hall is an open corridore ; annexed to the chief part of the building are various rooms for the use of the corporation, the town clerk, &c. This edifice was completed in 1752, chiefly at the expense of Thomas Rowney, Esq. late representative in parliament, and high steward of the city. There are some good portraits in one of the rooms. In Holywell-street is a handsome stone edifice termed the Music room. It contains an orchestra with rows of seats for the auditory, rising gradually from the floor. The front is plain but well proportioned, being designed by Dr. Camplin, sometime vice principal of St. Edmund's hall, but built by subscription and opened in 1748.

The Radcliffe Infirmary is a large and respectable stone building ; the current expenses are defrayed by voluntary subscription. Between six and seven hundred persons are supposed to obtain

annual relief here. A subscription of $\text{£}1$. 3s . per annum, or a contribution of thirty guineas or more at a time, entitles a person to the rank of governor.

About a quarter of a mile to the south-west of the infirmary is a house of industry, built to receive the poor of eleven parishes. The rest of the charitable Institutions consist of alms-houses, at the end of the town leading to Headington; each occupant of which has an allowance of eight shillings per week, with liberty to work, if willing or able. This liberal institution was founded by Charles Boulter, Esq. for six poor single men of six different counties.

Opposite to these is a building founded for eight poor women, by the Rev. William Stone. Each almswoman receives twelve pounds per annum, and other advantages.

Adjacent to the town-hall is a school founded by John Nixon, Esq. for the sons of freemen, and endowed with thirty pounds per annum for ever.

The University supports a school for fifty four-boys called the grey coat charity. They are plainly educated and placed out as apprentices. A school for forty boys is maintained by contributions from the inhabitants of the city. Each boy is clothed, and has ten pounds bestowed on him as an apprentice fee. The ladies of Oxford, support about thirty girls, who are afterwards apprenticed, or placed out as domestic servants.

The Roman Catholics, the Quakers, the Methodists and Baptists, have each a place of worship in this city.

The number of religious houses in Oxford prior to the reformation was nineteen :—St. Frideswida's, St. George's College, Osney Abbey, Rewley Abbey, St. Bernard's College, Canterbury College, Gloucester Hall, London College, St. Mary's College, St. Bartholomew's Hospital, St. John's Hospital, Austin Friars, Black Friars, Grey Friars, White Friars, Crouched Friars, Friars de Sacco, Trinity

House, several of these religious institutions fell to decay before the general dissolution, and were lost in collegiate establishments. Scarcely any of the buildings appertaining to this class, have been preserved, except small portions of Gloucester Hall and Durham College. The present Cathedral church is likely to remain for ages, an interesting specimen of the former importance of the Priory of St. Frideswida. In the western suburbs, are some mutilated relics of Rewley Abbey, founded about 1280; and opposite New Inn Hall, in St. Peter's in the Bailey, is a gateway formerly belonging to St. Mary's College, in which Erasmus studied during the years 1497 and 1498.

The palace of Beaumont, built by Henry I. in 1128, stood on the west side of the city. This contains a room in which, according to tradition, Richard I. was born. Edward II. gave this palace to the Carmelite Friars in consequence of a vow; but it was occasionally visited by many succeeding Kings, till the dissolution, when the whole was pulled down except the hall, &c.

The town and county gaol is a spacious stone building, with separate lodgings and yards of exercise for the debtors and felons. The buildings are arranged in imitation of Gothic castellated towers, and the principal entrance is between two low embattled turrets. Upon this spot stood the castle built by Robert de Oilge, which had, besides a church or chapel, an accommodation for students. This Norman castle was built with prodigious strength, and occupied a large extent of ground. The dungeons were first granted as prisons to the University, and the county at large by Henry III. The whole buildings were repaired and put in a state of defence by Charles I. "The stately towers," says Peshall, "were standing till Colonel Ingoldsby the governor's time, in 1649, when the castle being designed by the Parliament for a garrison, after the city works were slighted and decayed, they were all, being

four in number, besides that on the gate, pulled down, and bulwarks on the mount erected in their places; but these were again pulled down by Charles II. in 1652. The only remains now to be seen of de Oilge's massive structure, are the mount, a crypt, and a shell of one tower, which is square and lighted only by a few loop holes, having a narrow stone staircase winding up a projecting turret at one of the angles.

The City Bridewell is situated in an extensive area, and is a substantial and well-arranged building, finished in 1789. Till that period, prisoners were confined in a prison over the north gate, called Bocardo. In this dreary gaol, were the martyrs Cranmer, Ridley, and Latimer detained, and thence led to the mournful triumph of the stake. When the Bocardo was pulled down, Mr. Alderman Fletcher procured the door, which led to the cell of the Bishops' confinement, and caused it to be preserved in the New Bridewell. The massive iron hinges and ponderous key, are sufficient to cause the spectator to shudder, when he recollects, that this once presented an impassable barrier to latent piety, and venerable age. From Strype's Memoirs it appears, that the Bishops' partook both at dinner and supper of several dishes, and regularly drank wine. In October, 1555, Ridley and Latimer were brought forth to their burning, and passing by Cranmer's prison, Ridley looked up to have seen him; but he was not then at the window, being engaged in a dispute with a Spanish friar. But he looked after them, and devoutly falling on his knees, prayed to God to strengthen their faith and patience in that their last but painful passage. Cranmer's behaviour at the same dismal hour, enforced the admiration even of his enemies.

The origin of the University of Oxford is involved in obscurity; but all historians agree that it was at a very early period. Some early writers assert that it was the seat of learning in the time of the Britons. When the Danes were reduced by Alfred, that

prince is said to have founded three colleges, one for philosophy, another for grammar, and a third for divinity, in the year 886, so that on this consideration Alfred appears rather to have been the restorer than the founder. History mentions that in the reign of King John, there were 3000 students in this city, who all suddenly left the place, and retired to Reading, Cambridge, Salisbury, and other towns, owing to the king's severity in ordering two scholars to be hanged without the walls, at the instance of the citizens, on suspicion of their having accidentally killed a woman; but the inhabitants being soon sensible of their loss, sued for pardon on their knees before the Pope's legate, and submitted to public penance in all the churches of Oxford. After an absence of five years, the scholars, having obtained new privileges for their more effectual protection, returned to Oxford.

The University, consisting of 20 colleges and five halls, is governed by a chancellor, usually a nobleman, chosen for life; a high steward, named by the chancellor, and approved by the University, who is also for life; and to assist the chancellor, &c. a vice-chancellor, one always in orders, and the head of a college, who exercises the chancellor's power, keeps the officers and students to their duty, and chuses four pro-vice chancellors, out of the heads of colleges, to officiate in his absence; two proctors, who are masters of arts, chosen yearly out of the several colleges in turn, to keep the peace, punish disorders, inspect weights and measures, order scholastic exercise, and the admission to degrees: a public orator, who writes letters by order of convocation, and harangues princes, and other great men, who visit the University; a keeper of its archives; a registrar, who records all transactions of the convocation, &c. three esquire-beadles, with gilt silver maces, and three yeoman-beadles, with plain ones, who attend the vice-chancellor in public, execute his orders for apprehending delinquents,

publish the courts of convocation, and conduct the preachers to church, and lecturers to school; a vergier, who, on solemn occasions, walks with the beades before the vice-chancellor, and carries a silver rod.

The University consists, as before observed, of 20 colleges, and five halls, viz :

| | <i>Founded.</i> | | <i>Founded.</i> |
|---------------------|-----------------|--------------------|-----------------|
| University College, | 872 | Trinity . . . | 1555 |
| Baliol . . . | 1262 | St. John's . . | 1557 |
| Merton . . . | 1274 | Jesus . . . | 1571 |
| Exeter . . . | 1316 | Wadham . . . | 1613 |
| Oriel . . . | 1337 | Pembroke . . | 1620 |
| Queen's . . . | 1340 | Worcester . . | 1713 |
| New College . | 1375 | Hertford . . . | 1740 |
| Lincoln . . . | 1427 | St. Alban's Hall, | |
| All Souls . . . | 1437 | St. Mary's Hall, | |
| Magdalene . . | 1449 | St. Edmund's Hall, | |
| Brazen Nose . | 1511 | Magdalene Hall, | |
| Corpus Christi . | 1519 | New Inn Hall. | |
| Christ Church . | 1532 | | |

COLLEGES.

UNIVERSITY COLLEGE.—The magnificent front of this college is extended upwards of 260 feet along the south side of the high street. It consists of two courts, with two portals opening from the street, and a turret over each. The west portal leads to a well-built Gothic quadrangle of 100 feet square. Over this, towards the street, is a statue of queen Ann, and within, another of James II. and on the outside of the eastern portal is one of Mary, queen of William III. The Chapel and Hall occupy the southern part of the western quadrangle. The windows of the former are composed of finely-painted glass, particularly that over the altar, which, according to the inscription on it, was given by Dr. Radcliffe, in the year 1687; the roof of this chapel is a well-wrought frame of Norway oak.—At the entrance to the hall, which has lately been fitted up in a beautiful Gothic style, is a statue of

Alfred. This hall is of the same age with the chapel.

Beyond this court is another area of three sides, opening to gardens on the south. The east and part of the north side are taken by the lodgings of the master, which are commodious and extensive; and in a niche over the gate on the north, is a statue of Dr. Radcliffe. The sides of this court are about 80 feet.

In the common room is an excellent bust in statuary marble of Alfred, executed by Mr. Wilton, from an admirable model of Rysbrac; this is supposed to be one of the best pieces of modern sculpture in the University; and was presented to the college by Lord Viscount Folkstone.

King Alfred is said to have founded this college in the year 872. It is thought to be evident that he erected certain halls in Oxford, near, or on the spot, where this college now stands; and that he endowed the students of them with certain pensions issuing from the Exchequer; these halls, however, appear to have been alienated to the citizens, and their pensions suppressed about the reign of the Conqueror; we may therefore consider the real founder of this college to be William, archdeacon of Durham, who in the year 1209, purchased of the citizens one of the halls, which had been originally erected by Alfred, and probably styled University Hall. A society being thus established, many other benefactors afterwards appeared, who improved the revenues and buildings; of these the most considerable are, Walter Skirlaw, bishop of Durham, who founded three fellowships; Henry Percy, earl of Northumberland, in the year 1443 added the same number; and Sir Simon Bennet, who in the reign of Charles I. established four fellowships and four scholarships.

The present society consists of a master, 12 fellows, 17 scholars, and many other students. Visitor, the King.

The present spacious and splendid structure was

begun to be erected in the year 1634, by the benefaction of Charles Greenwood, formerly fellow of this college, and was afterwards carried on by Sir Simon Bennet above-mentioned : nor were succeeding patrons wanting to continue so noble a work, till it was finally completed by Dr. John Radcliffe, who erected two sides of the eastern quadrangle, entirely at his own expense ; he likewise settled on this college 600*l.* per annum for two travelling fellowships.

BALIOI COLLEGE—This college consists chiefly of a spacious court, entered by a Gothic gateway. The buildings on the east are more modern than the rest, and are of a plain and commodious character. On the north is the chapel, which was erected about the reign of Henry VIII. It is adorned with some beautiful pieces of painted glass, particularly the east window, which represents the Passion, Resurrection, and Ascension of Christ. The hall is a large and light room, handsomely wainscoted ; and in the master's lodging is likewise a spacious old apartment, whose beautiful bow window projects on the west side of the court, and which was formerly the college chapel. In the Library, which was finished about the year 1477, are several curious manuscripts. Besides the principal court, which was begun to be erected in the reign of Henry VI. there is an area to the north-west, consisting of irregular and detached lodgings.

A new and elegant building has also been lately added at the south-west angle of this college ; it was erected by the donation of the Rev. Mr. Fisher, late fellow of this society. Its south front, which is 108 feet six inches in length, consists of three stories, with nine windows in each ; and having three breaks, those at each end have Venetian windows ; on the middle break is formed a pediment, with a shield in the tympanum ; and the whole surrounded with a block cornice. This building is 38 feet six

inches in depth; and under the centre window in the back front, is the following inscription.

VERBUM NON AMPLIUS FISHER.

Sir John Baliol, of Bernard Castle, father of the king of Scotland of the same name, in the year 1268, began the foundation of this college. He appointed certain annual exhibitions for students, and intended to provide a house for their reception; but dying before his plan could be put in execution, his widow, lady Dervogille, not only completed, but improved his design. She obtained a charter of incorporation, settled the benefaction of her husband on 16 fellows, and conveyed to them, in the year 1282, a messuage, no vestige of which remains, on the spot where the college stands at present, for their perpetual habitation. Their stipends were eight-pence per week to each fellow; so that the whole original endowment amounted to no more than 27l. 9s. 4d. per year. It appears that the number of fellows was afterwards reduced; for about the year 1507, it was ordained that the society should consist of only one master and ten fellows. But this number has been since increased, and many scholarships and exhibitions have been likewise added.

The principal benefactors are Philip Somerville, Thomas Stanhope, Peter Blundell, Lady Periam, with several others. John Warner, bishop of Rochester, in the year 1666, likewise founded four exhibitions for natives of Scotland; whose benefaction has been since enlarged by John Snell, Esq.

This society consists of a master, 12 fellows, 18 exhibitioners, and 14 scholars. The master and fellows elect their own visitor.

MERTON COLLEGE.—This college is composed of three courts, neither of which contains much grandeur. In the first court the most striking object is the east window of the chapel; the construction of which is a fine piece of Gothic workmanship. From this court is the entrance to the hall by a

Height of steps: it is large and lofty, but contains nothing particularly remarkable, except the wainscot over the high table, which appears, by a date engraved upon it, in figures of an antique form, to have been erected in the year 1554. The new or second quadrangle was erected in the year 1610, from the south apartments of which there is a beautiful prospect over the meadows.

The chapel, which is also the parish church of St. John, has already been described in page 42. South of this church or chapel, is a small old quadrangle; the south side of which forms the library, built about the year 1376, which still contains several curious manuscripts, notwithstanding, as we are told by Wood, a cart load of manuscripts was taken from it, which were dispersed or destroyed by the visitors in the reign of Edward VI.

The terrace, formed on the city wall in the garden of this college, is finely situated for a delightful view, and the gardens, in general, have a pleasing variety.

This college was founded by Walter de Merton, chancellor of England, and afterwards bishop of Rochester, for the maintenance of 20 scholars, and three chaplains, about the year 1264. It was first established, as a religious house, at Malden in Surrey; where it continued but a few years, when the founder transferred it to its present situation. It is said that Henry III. recommended this foundation to Hugo, bishop of Ely, as a pattern for the establishment of his college of St. Peter at Cambridge.

The benefactors of this society are numerous.— Amongst these the most remarkable are, Henry Sever, and Richard Fitz James, formerly wardens; and Dr. John Wylott, Chancellor of the Church of Exeter, who gave exhibitions for the maintenance of 12 portionestæ, called postmasters, in the year 1380; these were afterwards increased to 14, by John Chambers, who directed that his two additional exhibitioners should be elected from Eton

School. Mr. Henry Jackson, late of this house, has likewise founded here four scholarships.

The society consists at present of a warden, 24 fellows, 14 postmasters, four scholars, two chaplains, and two clerks. The number of members of every sort is nearly 80.—Visitor, the archbishop of Canterbury.

EXETER COLLEGE.—This college is situated within that part of the city called the Thurl. In the centre of the front, which is 220 feet in length, is a beautiful gate of rustic work; and over it is a tower, adorned with Ionic pilasters, supporting a semicircular pediment, in the area of which are the arms of the founder on a shield, surrounded with festoons; a light balustrade finishes the whole.

This college consists chiefly of one handsome quadrangle; one side of which is the same as the front just described. On the south is the Hall, which is long and lofty, and adorned with portraits. It was entirely built from the ground by Sir John Ackland, of Devonshire, in the year 1618. On the north is the chapel, consisting of two aisles, one of which only is fitted up for divine service. It was finished chiefly at the expense of Dr. Hakewell, the rector, in the year 1624. In the Library is a fine collection of the classics, given by Thomas Richards, Esq.

The old entrance into the college was through the tower, which appears on the north-east angle of the court, and for which a postern in the city wall was opened. Near it, or about this tower, the old college, as it may in some measure be called, seems to have stood. No part of the original structure is now remaining. The chapel was converted into a library, and used for that purpose, till the bequest of the Rev. Joseph Sandford's valuable collection of books rendered it inadequate. The society, therefore, in the year 1778, erected a neat modern edifice in their garden as the college library.

The gardens are neat, with an agreeable terrace,

from whence a prospect is opened to some of the finest buildings in the university.

This college was founded by Walter Stapledon, bishop of Exeter, Lord Treasurer of England, and Secretary of State to Edward II. for 13 fellows, in the year 1316. It was first called Stapledon Hall, but obtained its present name from Edmund Stafford, bishop of Exeter, in the year 1404, who gave two fellowships. Many other benefactors have also liberally contributed towards extending the foundation; the most memorable of whom is Sir William Petre, who, in the year 1566, founded eight fellowships, procuring at the same time a more effectual charter, and a new body of statutes. King Charles I. likewise annexed one fellowship for the islands of Guernsey and Jersey.

This college consists at present of one rector, 25 fellows, and a bible clerk, with ten exhibitioners; and the whole number of members are about 50.—Visitor, the bishop of Exeter.

Oriel College, is situated southward of St. Mary's church, on the north side of the front of Corpus Christi College, its great gate being almost opposite to the back gate of Christ Church. It chiefly consists of one beautiful quadrangle, erected about the year 1640. On the north are the lodgings of the Provost, on the east the hall and vestibule of the chapel, and on the other sides are the apartments for the fellows and students. The ascent to the hall is by a grand flight of steps, covered with a portico. The interior is handsomely wainscotted in the Doric style, and decorated at the upper end with a portrait of Edward II. dressed in his regalia, by Hudson; one of Queen Anne, who annexed a prebend of Rochester to the provostship, by Dahl; and another of the late duke of Beaufort, who is represented erect, in his parliamentary robes, attended by a boy bearing a coronet, by Soldi. The chapel is more distinguished for simple elegance than magnificence. The eastern window represents

the offerings of the Magi, executed by Mr. Pecket, from a design of the late Dr. Wall. On the north side of the quadrangle is the entrance into a small court, called the Garden Court, which receives an agreeable air from an elegant little garden, which is formed in the midst of it, and fenced on this side with iron gates and pallsades, supported by a dwarf wall, and stone piers: the sides are built in a style correspondent to that of the quadrangle; that on the right was erected by Dr. Robinson, bishop of London; and that on the left by Dr. Carter, formerly provost. At the end is an elegant building, lately erected for a library.

This college was founded by Adam De Brom, almoner to Edward II. in the year 1327; for one provost and ten fellows. He endowed it with the rents of one messuage, five shops, with their upper rooms, and a cellar, all situated in St. Mary's parish: he also gave it the advowson of the church of the said parish, and a messuage in the north suburb. This was the whole of the original endowment; so that Edward II. is generally esteemed the founder; though he appears to have acquired this title merely because De Brom, in hopes that his master would increase its small revenues, and more effectually secure its foundation, surrendered his society into the king's hands; in fact, Edward conferred little or nothing more on the college than a charter of incorporation, and certain privileges. The members were at first placed in a building purchased by De Brom, where St. Mary's Hall now stands; but they soon removed from thence to a messuage called Le Oriel, given to them by Edward III.: who likewise granted to the college, the hospital of St. Bartholomew, near Oxford. The number of fellows has been since increased by various benefactors: the principal of whom, were John Franke, master of the rolls in the time of Henry VI. who founded four fellowships; John Carpenter, formerly provost, bishop of Worcester, added one; and William Smith, bishop

of Lincoln, and founder of Brazen-Nose College, another; after which Dr. Richard Dudley, formerly fellow, and chancellor of the church of Sarum, made the whole number of fellows 18. Many exhibitions have been likewise given to the society; more particularly by the late duke of Beaufort, who gave 100*l.* per annum to four exhibitioners.

The college has gone through frequent revolutions with regard to its buildings; the principal benefactor to the present edifice was Dr. John Tolson, when provost, who, besides other valuable donations, gave 1,150*l.* for that purpose. The above-mentioned Dr. Robinson, bishop of London, likewise gave 2,500*l.* for augmenting the fellowships.

The present members of this college are one provost, 18 fellows, and 13 exhibitioners; and the students of all sorts amount to almost 80.—Visitor, the Lord Chancellor.

QUEEN'S COLLEGE.—This college is situated on the north side of the High Street, opposite to University College; the front, which is built in the style of the Luxembourg Palace, is at once magnificent and elegant. In the middle is a splendid gateway, over which is a superb cupola, with a statue of Queen Caroline under it. The whole area on which this beautiful college, which is one entire piece of well-executed modern architecture, stands, is an oblong square, 300 feet in length, and 220 feet in breadth, which, being divided by the hall and chapel, is formed into two courts. The first court is 140 feet in length, and 120 in breadth, having a beautiful cloister on the west, south, and east. Over the western cloisters are the provost's lodgings, which are spacious and splendid. The north side is formed by the chapel and hall, and finely finished in the Doric order. In the centre, over a portico, leading to the north court, stands a handsome cupola, supported by eight ionic columns.

The chapel is 100 feet long, and 30 broad. It is ornamented in the Corinthian order, with a beau-

tiful ceiling of fret-work. The windows are all of fine old painted glass of the year 1518, that over the altar excepted, representing the Nativity, which was executed by Mr. Price, in the year 1717. Under this has lately been placed a painting on the same subject; it is a copy from *La Notte*, the *Night* of Correggio, in the Dresden gallery, which is esteemed one of the finest pictures in the world. The most remarkable of these windows are two on the north side, representing the Last Judgment, and two on the south, the Ascension: these, with the rest, were removed hither from the old chapel. The roof is likewise adorned with a fine painting of the Ascension, by Sir James Thornhill.

The hall, which is fitted up in the Doric order, is 60 feet long, and 30 broad, with an arched roof of a corresponding height, and furnished with portraits of the founder and benefactors, to which has lately been added a picture of her late Majesty Queen Charlotte. Over the screen is a handsome gallery, intended for music, and as a vestibule to the common room, to which it leads.

The North Court is 130 feet long, and 90 broad; on the west stands the Library, which is of the Corinthian order. Under the east side of this edifice runs a cloister; its west side is adorned with statues of the founder and benefactors, with other pieces of sculpture. The interior of this building is highly finished, and the book-cases, which are of Norway oak, are decorated with well-wrought carving, and in the ceiling are some admirable compartments of stucco. It has a splendid orrery, and is furnished with a valuable collection of books and manuscripts in most languages.

Robert Eggesfield, a native of Cumberland, and confessor to Queen Philippa, founded this college, in the year 1340, for one provost and twelve fellows, to be chosen from the counties of Cumberland and Westmoreland. To these he intended to annex 70 children or scholars, a few of which number only

were really established, the founder's entire design being prevented by his death. The benefactors, however, have been very numerous: the chief of whom were Edward III. and his queen Philippa, from whom it was called Queen's College; Charles I. who gave six advowsons; Sir Joseph Williamson, and Drs. Lancaster and Halton, formerly provosts; Sir F. Bridgeman, Lady Betty Hastings, &c.

The present edifice was begun by Sir J. Williamson, above-mentioned, in the year 1672, who was a most munificent contributor; and, being continued by the liberality of several intermediate benefactors, was at length completed by the noble legacy of Mr. Michel, of Richmond, who likewise founded eight fellowships and four scholarships. These fellows and scholars have handsome apartments appropriated to them in the new buildings, beside an annual stipend of 50*l.* to each of the former, and 30*l.* per annum to each of the latter. This foundation was first filled up by election from other colleges of the University, on the 26th of October, 1764.

The custom of ushering in the boar's head with a song on Christmas Day is at present peculiar to this college; but it was formerly practised all over the kingdom. This custom has been absurdly said to have originated in the following story: A student of this college, with Aristotle in his hand, walking out in the vicinity of Oxford, was attacked by a furious boar; upon which he crammed the philosopher down the throat of the savage, and thus escaped impending danger.

Henry, prince of Wales, afterwards king Henry V. is supposed to have studied at this college, under the care of cardinal Beaufort.

The college consists at present of a provost, 16 fellows, two chaplains, eight taberdars, so called from taberdum, a short gown which they formerly wore, 16 scholars, two clerks, and 40 exhibitioners. To these may be added the members of Mr.

Michel's new foundation, above-mentioned. The whole number of members is nearly 200. Visitor, the Archbishop of York.

NEW COLLEGE.—This college, which is situated eastward of the schools, is separated from Queen's college by a narrow lane on the south.

The first court, which is entered by a portal, is about 168 feet in length, and 129 in breadth. In the centre is a statue of Minerva, given by Sir Henry Parker, of Honington, in Warwickshire. The north side, which consists of the chapel and hall, is a noble specimen of Gothic magnificence. The two upper stories of the east side form the library. On the west are the lodgings of the warden, which are large and commodious, and adorned with many valuable portraits. The third story of this court was added to the founder's original building in the year 1674.

The chapel, which is by far the most beautiful and grand of any in Oxford, stands on the north side of the quadrangle. The anti-chapel, which is supported by two beautiful staff-moulded pillars of fine proportion, runs at right angles to the choir, and is 80 feet long, and 36 broad. The choir, which is entered by a Gothic screen of beautiful construction, is 100 feet long, 35 broad, and 65 in height. The approach to the altar, which is by a noble flight of marble steps, is inclosed by a well-wrought rail of iron work. Over the communion-table, in the wall, are five compartments of marble sculpture, in alto-relievo, representing the following subjects: 1. The Salutation of the Virgin Mary. 2. The Nativity of Jesus Christ. 3. The taking down from the Cross. 4. The Resurrection, and 5. The Ascension. These were all finished by Mr. Westmacott, who likewise furnished the table or altar, which is 12 feet long, and three broad, and is composed of dove-coloured marble. The organ-loft is a most superb piece of Gothic architecture, raised over the entrance of the choir at the west end, and very

fitly corresponding with the richness and beauty of the altar-piece; and the organ is a most admirable instrument, erected by the famous Dolham, and since improved by Mr. John Byfield. On the north side of the chapel is kept the crozier of the founder, a well-preserved piece of antiquity, and almost the only one in the kingdom. It is nearly seven feet high, is of silver gilt, and is finely embellished with a variety of rich Gothic architecture.

The painted windows of this chapel, however, constitute its chief ornament; of these there are four sorts, viz.

1. All the windows of the anti-chapel (the west excepted) are nearly as old as the chapel itself; and contain the portraits of patriarchs, prophets, saints, martyrs, &c. to the number of 64, as large as life, and 50 smaller above them, curious for their antiquity, but for little else; being drawn without perspective, without the effect of light and shade, and ill proportioned. Yet in these are some few remains, which shew the brilliancy of their colours, and some few traces of simplicity and beauty, particularly the heads of the female figures, in the window on the right-hand of the entrance to the chapel.

2. The second sort are the windows on the north side of the chapel. These are in the common style of modern glass painting. The three nearest to the organ, (finished in the year 1774,) contain in the lower range, the chief persons recorded in the Old Testament, from Adam to Moses; in the upper, 12 of the prophets. The other two windows are filled with our blessed Saviour, the Virgin Mary, and the 12 apostles. These figures stand each within a niche upon a pedestal, and under a canopy of Gothic architecture. The whole of these windows is the workmanship of Mr. Peckitt, of York.

3. The windows opposite, on the south side of the chapel, were repaired by Mr. Price, junior, in the year 1740. Each window represents eight figures

of saints and martyrs, with their respective symbols and insignia ; and for expression, colouring, and effect, were esteemed superior to any thing ever executed on glass, till the appearance of the fourth, viz.

4. The west window of the anti-chapel, consisting of two ranges ; in the lower are seven compartments, each of which is near three feet wide and twelve high. In these stand seven allegorical figures, representing the four cardinal and three Christian Virtues, in the following manner :

Temperance, pouring water out of a larger vessel into a smaller. Her common attribute, the bridle, lies at her feet.

Fortitude, in armour ; her hand resting on a column, which though half destroyed remains upright ; her form robust, her look bold and resolute ; a lion, her attendant, couches below her.

Faith, standing fixedly on both feet, and bearing a cross ; her eyes and hand raised to heaven.

On the other side of the middle group is Hope looking up to heaven, and springing up towards it so eagerly, that her feet scarcely touch the ground. Part of an anchor, her attribute, is to be seen in the corner of the compartment.

Justice, looking with a steady and piercing eye, through the dark shade that her arm casts over her face. In her left hand the steelyard, and her right hand supporting the sword.

Prudence, beholding, as in a mirror, the actions and manners of others, for the purpose of regulating her own. On her left arm is an arrow joined with a remora, the respective emblems of swiftness and slowness : Prudence being a medium between both.

The middle group, above mentioned, representing Charity, is particularly worthy of notice, on account of the expression of the figures. The fondling of the infant, the importunity of the boy, and the placid affection of the girl, together with the divided attention of the mother, are distinguishably and judiciously marked.

These figures, however, which fill the lower compartment, are but a subordinate part to the superb work erected over them. In a space 10 feet wide, and 18 feet high, is represented the Nativity, a composition of 13 figures besides animals, consisting of

The Blessed Virgin, whose attention is wholly engaged in her infant.

A group of angels descended into the stable, and kneeling around him; the face of the least of these figures exhibits an idea of youthful beauty that perhaps was never surpassed.

A company of Shepherds, whose devotion and eagerness to behold the infant are strongly expressed.

Joseph looking at the spectators, and pointing to the child, as the promised seed.

In the clouds above an angel in contemplation of the mystery of the cross; near him a scroll, on which is written the Greek of this text: "Mysteries, which the angels themselves desire to look into."

The portraits of the two artists, Sir Joshua Reynolds and Mr. Jervais, are here introduced in the character of Shepherds, paying adoration to the newborn Saviour.

Choir service is performed every day in this chapel, at 11 in the forenoon and 5 in the afternoon.

Near the chapel is a noble cloister, which constitutes a quadrangle, 146 feet in length on two sides, and 105 the other two, with a lawn in the area.

The Hall, which is situated at the north-east side of the quadrangle, is of excellent proportion, being 78 feet in length, 33 in breadth, and 43 in height. Its wainscot, which was erected about the reign of Henry VIII. is particularly curious, and over the high table, at the upper end, is an original painting of Annibal Carracci, presented to this college by the Earl of Radnor. The subject of this piece is the Adoration of the Shepherds, The virgin, angels, and shepherds are represented as jointly celebrating

the Nativity, in the divine hymn of "Glory to God in the highest." The composition and drawing are admirable; and the force and spirit of the shepherds are finely contrasted by the elegance and grace of the virgin, and attending angels. The style of the landscape is likewise great, and the colouring warm, but grave and solemn. This valuable piece, it is said, was once in the possession of that judicious collector M. Colbert, minister to Louis XIV. This hall is likewise adorned with the portraits of the munificent founder, William of Wykeham; William of Wainfleet, founder of Magdalene College; and Henry Chicheley, founder of All Soul's College.

The two rooms of which the library before mentioned consists, are 70 feet long, and 22 broad, and are well furnished with books, and likewise a valuable collection of manuscripts.

In this quadrangle is the entrance into the garden court, which, by means of a succession of retiring wings, displays itself gradually on the approach to the garden, from which it is separated by a grand iron palisade, 130 feet in length. This court has a noble effect from the mount in the garden; and the prospect is still farther improved by the Gothic spires and battlements which overlook the new building from the founder's court. It began to be erected in the year 1682, at the expense of the college, assisted by many liberal contributions.

Great part of the garden, as well as some parts of the college, is surrounded by the city wall; which from the circumstance of its serving as a fence or boundary to the college precincts, is here preserved entire, with its battlements and bastions, to a considerable extent. On the south side is a pleasant bowling-green, shaded to the west by a row of elms, and on the east by tall sycamores, the branches of which, being interwoven and incorporated with each other from end to end, are justly admired as a natural curiosity.

This college was founded by William Wykeham,

a native of Wykeham, a small town in Hampshire. Besides other ample preferments to which he was advanced by the favour of Edward the Third, he was constituted keeper of the privy seal, bishop of Winchester, and lord high chancellor of England. Having liberally maintained seventy students in several halls of the university, for some years, he obtained a charter to found a college in Oxford, for a warden, and 70 poor scholars. The foundation stone was laid on the 5th day of March, in the year 1379, the college entirely finished in the year 1386, and on the 14th day of April, in the same year, the society took possession of it. In the following year he founded another noble college at Winchester, for the liberal support of a warden, three chaplains, one schoolmaster, one usher, 70 scholars, &c. and ordained it to be a perpetual seminary for supplying the vacancies of his college at Oxford. This illustrious patron of literature and virtue crowned the beneficence of his life by bequeathing, in his last will, legacies to the amount of 6000*l.* (an immense sum in those days) for various charitable purposes. He survived the foundation of his college several years, and died September the 27th, in the year 1404.

The principal benefactors to this college are, John de Buckingham, bishop of Lincoln, in the year 1388. Thomas Beckington, in the year 1440; Thomas Jane, in the year 1494; Clement Harding, in the year 1507; Wareham, archbishop of Canterbury; Shirebourne, bishop of Chichester; John Smith; William Fleshmonger, with many others.

This college, which is dedicated to St. Mary Winton, has been called New College from its first foundation; being at that time an object of public curiosity, and far superior, in point of extent and grandeur, to any college that had then appeared; Merton being, before this, perhaps, the most splendid in the University, though at that time by no means adorned with buildings as at present.

The greater part of St. Mary's college is still

remaining, although now converted into stables, a meeting-house for Methodists, &c. It may be added, that very considerable architectural remains, appearing to be those of a monastic structure, and now used as livery stables, are to be seen opposite to Magdalen Church.

St. Martin's Church has been rebuilt since 1819.

In opening a vault in St. Mary's Church for the interment of Mrs. Joy, in 1819, the coffin of Dr. Radcliffe, that most munificent benefactor to the university, was found. The exact spot where he was buried was quite unknown to the present generation until this discovery was made.

The members of New College are, one warden, 70 fellows, 10 chaplains, three clerks, 10 choristers, and one sexton; together with many gentlemen commoners.—Visitor, the Bishop of Winchester.

LINCOLN COLLEGE.—This college, which is situated between All Saint's Church and Exeter College, consists of two quadrangles. The first is formed, exclusive of chambers, by the lodgings of the rector, standing in the south-east angle, and erected by Thomas Beckington, bishop of Bath and Wells, in the year 1465; the library and common room is on the north, and the refectory on the east.

The library, under which is the common room, is small, but neatly decorated, and contains many curious manuscripts, chiefly given by Thomas Gascoigne, in the year 1432. It was finished, as it appears at present, by the liberality of Sir Nathaniel Lloyd, first a commoner of this, and afterwards fellow of All Soul's College, in the year 1738.

The hall was erected by dean Forest, in the year 1636, and was handsomely wainscoted by bishop Crew, in the year 1701, whose arms appear over the middle screen; and those of the rest of the contributors are interspersed about the mouldings. It is 40 feet in length, 25 in breadth, and proportionable in height.

In this court, which forms a square of 80 feet, is

an entrance through the south-side of the second, which is about 70 feet square. On the south-side of this quadrangle is the chapel, which was built by bishop Williams, in the year 1631. The screen is of cedar, elegantly carved; and the windows are of painted glass, complete, and well preserved, though executed in the year 1632: those on the north represent twelve of the prophets; and those on the south, the twelve apostles, as large as life. The east window exhibits a view of the types relative to our Saviour, with their respective completions, viz. 1. From the left hand the Nativity, and under it the History of the Creation, its antitype. 2. Our Lord's Baptism; and under it the passing of the Israelites through the Red Sea. 3. The Jewish Passover; and under it the institution of the Lord's Supper. 4. The Brazen Serpent in the Wilderness; corresponding to Christ on the Cross. 5. Jonah delivered from the Whale's Belly, expressive of Christ's Resurrection. 6. Elijah in the Fiery Chariot, with our Lord's Ascension.

The roof, which consists of compartments in cedar, is embellished with the arms of the different founders and benefactors, and interchangeably enriched with cherubims, palm-branches, and festoons, diversified with painting and gilding. At each end of the desks are placed eight figures of cedar, which are executed with admirable proportion and elegance, they represent Moses, Aaron, the four Evangelists, St. Peter, and St. Paul.

This college was founded in the year 1427, by Richard Flemming, a native of Crofton, in Yorkshire, and bishop of Lincoln, for the maintenance of one rector, seven fellows, and two chaplains; and intended as a seminary for the education of scholars, who should oppose the doctrine of Wickliffe. But the founder dying before he had fully established his little society, the college, left in an indigent condition, with some difficulty subsisted for a few years on the slender endowment which he had

consigned to it, and the addition of some small benefactions afterwards made by others. At length Thomas Rotherham, bishop of Lincoln, more effectually supplied its necessities, by improving both the buildings and its revenues; adding likewise five fellowships, and assigning a new body of statutes, dated 1479; by which, and other services, he so raised Flemming's orphan foundation, as justly to deserve the name of a co-founder.

Among other benefactors to this college are William Dagvyle, mayor of Oxford; William Smyth, bishop of Lincoln, and founder of Brazen-nose College; Edmund Audley, bishop of Salisbury; and Jane Trapps; but the principal benefactor is Nathaniel, Lord Crew, bishop of Durham, who, about the year 1717, added to the headship an annual allocation of 20l.; to the ten fellows 10l. each; and to the seven scholarships, and bible clerkships, 5l. each: besides which, he improved the four college curacies, and also founded 12 exhibitioners, with salaries of 20l. per annum each.

The late Dr. Hutchins, who had been many years rector, likewise augmented the incomes of the scholars and exhibitioners.

The Society at present consists of a rector, 12 fellows, 12 exhibitioners, and seven scholars, with a bible clerk; besides independent members.—Visitor, the Bishop of Lincoln.

ALL SOUL'S COLLEGE.—This college, which consists chiefly of two courts, is situated in the High Street, westward of Queen's College. Over the gateway are the statues of the founder, Henry Chichele, and Henry VI.

The first, or Old Court, is a Gothic edifice, 124 feet in length, and 72 in breadth. The chapel, which is on the north side, is a stately pile; and the anti-chapel, in which are some remarkable monuments, is 70 feet long, and 30 broad; the entrance into the inner chapel, which is of the same dimensions, is by a grand flight of marble steps, through a

screen, constructed by Sir Christopher Wren. The spacious environ of the altar consists of the richest red-vein marble. Above is a fine assumption-piece of the founder, by Sir James Thornhill; and the compartment immediately over the communion-table is occupied with a picture painted at Rome, in the year 1771, by the celebrated Mr. Mengs. The subject of this piece is our Saviour's first appearance to Mary Magdalene after his resurrection, which is generally called a *Noli me tangere*, in allusion to the first words of Christ's speech to her. The colouring of this picture is excellent, and there is something extremely amiable, mixed with great dignity, in the countenance and character of the figure of our Saviour; while the mild composure of it is finely contrasted by that ecstasy of joy and astonishment which appears on the face of Mary. On the right and left, at the approach to the altar, are two inimitable urns, by Sir James Thornhill, respectively representing, in their bas-reliefs, the institution of the two sacraments. Between the windows on each side, are figures of saints in chiaro oscuro, larger than life; four of these represent St. Ambrose, St. Jerome, St. Austin, and St. Gregory, the four Latin fathers, to whom the chapel is dedicated. The ceiling is disposed into compartments, embellished with carving and gilding; and the whole has an air of much splendour and dignity.

The hall, which forms one side of an area to the east, is an elegant and modern room; furnished with portraits of the magnificent founder, Colonel Codrington, and Sir Nathaniel Lloyd. At the high table is an historical piece, by Sir James Thornhill, the subject of which is the Finding of the Law. Over the chimney-piece, which is handsomely executed in dove-coloured marble, is a bust of the founder; on one side of which is a bust of Linacre, formerly fellow, a famous physician in the reign of Henry VIII., and on the other, of John Leland, the celebrated antiquarian, who is supposed to have

been a member of this house. Here is also a capital full-length statue of Judge Blackstone, executed by Bacon. The rest of this room is adorned with an admirable series of busts from the antique.

The adjoining buttery is a well-proportioned room, of an oval form, having an arched roof of stone, ornamented with curious workmanship: it was erected at the same time with the hall.

In this quadrangle is a dial, contrived by Sir Christopher Wren, when fellow of the college, which by the help of two half rays, and one whole one for every hour, shews to a minute the time of day; the minutes being marked on the sides of the rays, 15 on each side, and divided into five by a different character.

The second court is a magnificent Gothic quadrangle (or rather an imitation of the Gothic style), of 172 feet in length, and 155 in breadth; on the south are the chapel and hall; on the west a cloister, with a grand-portico; on the north a library; and on the east two superb Gothic towers, in the centre of a series of fine apartments.

The library, which forms the whole north side of this court, is about 200 feet in length, and 32 in breadth, and 40 in height. Its outside is, in correspondence to the rest of the court, Gothic; and the interior is finished in the most splendid and elegant manner, being furnished with two noble arrangements of bookcases, one above the other, supported by Doric and Ionic pilasters; and the upper class, being formed in a superb gallery, surrounds three sides. On the north side is a recess equal to the breadth of the whole room, and in its area is placed a statue of Colonel Codrington, the founder of the library. The ceiling and spaces between the windows are ornamented with the richest stucco, by Mr. Roberts; and over the gallery a series of bronzes, is interchangeably disposed, consisting of vases, and the busts of many eminent men, formerly fellows of this house.

This college was founded in the year 1437, by Henry Chichele, a native of Higham Ferrers, in Northamptonshire, and one of Wykeham's original fellows of New College, and afterwards archbishop of Canterbury; for one warden, 40 fellows, two chaplains, three clerks, and three choristers. It is styled in the charter, "The College of the souls of all faithful people deceased, of Oxford."

The founder, for the more liberal endowment of this society, procured of Henry VI. a grant of the revenues of many of the dissolved alien priories. He expended, besides the purchase money for the site, &c. the sum of 4,545l. 15s. 5d. in the buildings of this college, namely, the present old court, and the original refectory, which, with a cloister since removed, inclosed part of the area of the new quadrangle. At his decease he bequeathed to it 134l. 6s. 8d. and 1000 marks. In his statutes he gives a preference in elections to those candidates who shall prove themselves to be of his blood and kindred. These are said to have multiplied so fast, within the space of 400 years, that it is probable the time is not far off when this society will be entirely filled with his own relations; for it appears, by the *Stermata Chicheleana*, or pedigrees of the Chichely family, published in the year 1765; and from the supplement to that collection published in the year 1775, that upwards of 120 of the families of the English peerage, between 50 and 60 of the Scotch and Irish, more than 180 of the English baronetage, with many hundreds of the gentry and commonalty of England, Scotland, and Ireland, may now prove themselves to have descended from the same stock with the founder of All Souls, viz from his father, Thomas Chichely, of Higham Ferrers.

The principal benefactors are Colonel Christopher Codrington, governor of the Leeward Islands, formerly fellow, who, besides a valuable collection of books, granted by will 6000l. for building the library, and added 4000l. for purchasing books; Dr. George

Clarke; the late Duke of Wharton, Doddington Greville, Lieutenant Colonel Stewart, and Sir Nathaniel Lloyd. Of the combined munificence of all, or most of these, the second court, above-described, is an illustrious monument.

This college consists of one warden, 40 fellows, two chaplains, three clerks, and six choristers.—Visitor the Archbishop of Canterbury.

A remarkable ceremony was annually celebrated in this college, in commemoration of the discovery of a mallard of an extraordinary size, in a drain or sewer, at the time of digging for the foundation of the walls. An entertainment was provided in the evening of the 14th of January, which was called the Mallard Night, and an excellent old ballad, adapted to ancient music, was sung in remembrance of the mallard. This peculiar custom has given rise to a pamphlet of infinite wit and humour, entitled “A complete Vindication of the Mallard of All Soul’s College, &c.

MAGDALENE COLLEGE.—This college is situated at the eastern termination of the city, on the borders of the river Charwell. The front gate is of the Doric order, decorated with a statue of the founder. Opposite to this gate is the west front of the college, which is a striking specimen of the Gothic style. The gate under the west window of the chapel is particularly deserving attention, being adorned with five small but elegant figures, that on the right representing the founder; the next William of Wykeham, in whose college at Winchester the founder was schoolmaster: the third is St. Mary Magdalene, to whom the college is dedicated; the fourth is Henry III. who founded the hospital, since converted into this college; and the last St. John the Baptist, by whose name the said hospital was called.

On the left are the lodgings of the president, much enlarged and improved; and nearly contiguous to these, beneath a tower, whose sides are adorn-

ed with four of the persons above-mentioned, is a stately gateway, which was the original entrance into the college, but since disused.

From this area is an entrance into a cloister, which surrounds a venerable old quadrangle. In the south are the Chapel and Hall, the entrance to the former of which is on the right hand at entering the cloister. The anti-chapel is spacious, supported with two staff-moulded pillars, extremely light, where a new pulpit of excellent workmanship, in the Gothic style, together with seats on each side, have within these few years been erected. In the west window are some fine remains of glass, painted in chiaro-oscuro. The subject is the Resurrection, and the design is after one invented and executed by Schwartz, for the wife of William, duke of Bavaria, more than 200 years since, which was afterwards engraved by Sadeler. The choir is solemn and handsomely decorated. The windows, each of which contain six figures, almost as large as life, of primitive fathers, saints, martyrs, and apostles, are finely painted in the taste and about the time of that just described: these windows formerly belonged to the anti-chapel, the two near the altar excepted, which were lately done, being all removed hither in the year 1741. In the confusion of the Civil Wars the original choir windows were taken down and concealed. They did not, however, escape the rage of fanaticism and ignorance, for being unluckily discovered by a party of Cromwell's troopers, they were entirely destroyed. The altar-piece of this chapel, which represents the Resurrection, was executed by Isaac Fuller, about a century since. This painting is elegantly celebrated by Mr. Addison, formerly a student of this house, in a Latin poem, printed in the *Musæ Anglicanæ*. Under this piece is another admirable picture, of our Lord bearing the Cross, supposed to be the work of Moralez. It was taken at Vigo; and being brought into England by the late duke of Ormond, it came

into the possession of William Freeman, Esq. who gave it to the society. The altar is fitted up in the modern style, with a well-executed wainscot, and columns of the Corinthian order. Choir service is performed in this chapel at ten and four every day; except that on Sundays and holidays the morning service is sung at eight, as it is in all the choirs of the University.

The hall is a stately Gothic room, well proportioned and handsomely finished; and decorated with four whole-length portraits, viz. of the founder, Dr. Butler, William Freeman, and prince Rupert; and two half-lengths, viz. bishop Warner, and Dr. Hammond.

The interior part of the cloister is adorned with hieroglyphics, to unriddle which great pains have been taken; some, however, affirm, that they are nothing more than the licentious invention of the mason; while others as warmly contend that they contain a complete system of academical discipline: of these hieroglyphics, Mr. Reeks, formerly fellow of this college, has given the following account, in which the allegory is well preserved.

“Beginning at the south-west corner, the two first figures we meet are, the *lion* and the *pelican*; the former of these is the emblem of *courage* and *vigilance*, the latter of *parental tenderness and affection*: both of them together express to us the complete character of a good governor of a college. Accordingly they are placed under the window of those lodgings which originally belonged to the president, as the instructions they convey ought to regulate his conduct.

“Going on to the right hand, on the other side of the gateway, are four figures, viz. the *school-master*, the *lawyer*, the *physician*, and the *divine*. These are ranged along the outside of the library, and represent the duties and business of the students of the house. By means of learning in general, they are to be introduced to one of the three learned professions; or

el e, as hinted to us by a figure with *cap* and *bells* in the corner, they must turn out fools in the end.

“ We come now to the north side of the quadrangle, and here the three first figures represent the history of *David*; his conquest over the *lion* and *Goliath*; from whence we are taught not to be discouraged at any difficulties that may stand in our way, as the *vigour of youth* will easily enable us to surmount them. The next figure to these is that of the *hippopotamus*, or *river horse*, carrying his young-one upon his shoulders. This is the emblem of a good tutor, or fellow of a college, who is set to watch over the youth of the society, and by whose prudence they are to be led through the dangers of their first entrance into the world. The figure immediately following represents *sobriety*, or *temperance*, that most necessary virtue of a collegiate life. The whole remaining train of figures are the vices we are instructed to avoid. Those next to *temperance* are the opposite vices of *gluttony* and *drunkenness*; then follow the *lucantropos*, the *hyæna*, and *panther*, representing *violence*, *fraud*, and *treachery*; the *griffin* representing *covetousness*, and the next figure, *anger*, or *moroseness*; the *dog*, the *dragon*, the *deer*, *flattery*, *envy*, and *timidity*; and the three last, the *mantichora*, the *boxers*, and the *lamia*, *pride*, *contention*, and *lust*.

“ We have here, therefore, a complete and instructive lesson for the use of a society dedicated to the advancement of religion and learning; and on this plan we may suppose the founder of Magdalene, thus speaking, by means of these figures, to the students of his college.

“ It is your duty, who live under the care of the president, whose *vigilance* and *parental tenderness* are the proper qualifications to support the government of my house, attentively to pursue your studies, in your *several professions*; and so avoid the *follies* of an idle, unlettered, and dissipated course of life. You may possibly meet with many *difficulties* at your

first setting out in this road ; but these every *stripling* will be able to overcome by *courage* and *perseverance*. And remember, when you are advanced beyond these difficulties, that it is your duty to lend your assistance to those who come after you, and whose education is committed to your care. You are to be an example to them of *sobriety* and *temperance*; so shall you guard them from falling into the snares of *excess* and *debauchery*. You shall teach them, that the vices with which the world abounds, *cruelty*, *fraud*, *avarice*, *anger*, and *envy*, as well as the more simple ones of abject *flattery* and *cowardice*, are not to be countenanced within these hallowed retirements. And let it be your endeavour to avoid *pride* and *contention*, the parents of *faction*, and in your situation the worst and most unnatural of all factions, the *faction of a cloister*. And lastly, you will complete the *collegiate character*, if you crown all your other acquirements with the unspotted *purity* and *chastity* of your lives and conduct."

On the north side of this court, a narrow passage leads to a beautiful opening, one side of which is bounded by a noble and elegant edifice in the modern taste, consisting of three stories, 300 feet in length. The front rests on an arcade, whose roof is finely stuccoed. Through the centre of this building is an avenue into the grove or paddock, which is formed into many delightful walks and lawns, and stocked with about 40 head of deer.

Besides this paddock, there is a meadow, within the precincts of the college, consisting of about 13 acres, surrounded by a pleasant walk, called the Water-walk, the whole circuit of which is washed by branches of the Charwell, and is shaded with hedges and lofty trees, which in one part grow wild, and in the other are cut and disposed regularly. A beautiful opening has lately been made on the west side into the college grove, by demolishing the old embattled wall, on the banks of the river.

This college was founded by William Patten, a

native of Wainfleet, in Lincolnshire, who was educated at Winchester School, and afterwards took his degrees at Oxford. He was first preferred to the mastership of Winchester School; from thence made provost of Eton College, advanced to the bishopric of Winchester in the year 1447, and constituted lord high chancellor of England in the year 1449.

He founded this college in the year 1456, for the support of one president, 40 fellows, 30 demies, eligible from any school or county, a divinity lecturer, a schoolmaster and usher, four chaplains, one organist, eight clerks, and 16 choristers. It was erected on the site of St. John's Hospital, in commemoration of which a sermon is annually preached in the college on St. John's day. Part of the original walls of the said hospital are yet to be seen on the south side of the chapel.

The original endowment of this college was most munificent, which, however, has been augmented by many considerable benefactors: the most distinguished of whom are Henry VI. William Fitz-Alan, Earl of Arundel, Claymond, Morwent, &c. It has been supposed by some writers that Cardinal Wolsey, when bursar of the college, in the year 1492, erected the tower, which is exceeded by none in strength, height, and beauty, and contains a musical peal of bells.

The College at present consists of a president, 40 fellows, 30 demies, a divinity lecturer, a school-master and usher, four chaplains, an organist, eight clerks, and 16 choristers. The whole number of students, including gentlemen commoners, is about 120. Visitor, the Bishop of Winchester.

To the south of this college is the BOTANICAL GARDEN, the grand entrance to which is an elegant piece of architecture, from a design of Inigo Jones, and executed by Nicholas Stone. It is in the Doric order, ornamented with rustic work, and likewise adorned with a bust of the founder, Lord Danby, a statute of Charles I. and another of Charles II. and

on the face of the corona and friese is the following inscription, viz. "*Gloriæ Dei optimi maximi Honori Caroli I. Regis in Usum Academiæ et Reipublicæ Henricus Comes Danby, Anno 1632.*" This inscription is likewise on the garden front. The Garden, which contains five acres, is surrounded by a noble wall, with portals in the rustic style, at proper distances. The ground is divided into four quarters, with a broad walk down the middle. At the right and left, near the entrance, are two neat and convenient green-houses, which are stocked with a valuable collection of exotics: the quarters are filled with a complete series of such plants as grow naturally, disposed in their respective classes. Eastward of the garden, without the wall, is an excellent hot-house; where various plants, brought from the warmer climates, are raised.

This garden was instituted by the Earl of Danby, in the year 1632, who having replenished it with plants for the use of the students in botany, settled an annual revenue for its support. It has been since much improved by Dr. Sherrard, who assigned 3000*l.* for the maintenance of a professor of botany, Dr. Sibthorpe, the late learned professor, who resided several years in the East, likewise enriched the collection with many new articles.

BRAZEN-NOSE COLLEGE.—This college, which constitutes the west side of the Radcliffe Square, consists of two courts; the first, which is the original one, comprises the old lodgings of the principal, the chambers of the fellows and students, and the refectory, the latter of which is elegantly fitted up, and adorned with portraits and paintings on glass, of the two founders. Over its portico are two antique busts: the one of Alfred, who built Little University Hall, or King's Hall; on the site of which the present college is partly erected; and the other of John Ergena, a Scotchman, who first read lectures in the said hall, in the year 882. In this court is a piece of sculpture, supposed to represent the murder

of Abel by Cain, and over the door leading up to the common room, which was originally the chapel, is the following inscription :—

“ Anno Xti. 1509, et Reg. Hen. 8 pro.
Nomine divino Lyncoln præsul, quoque Sutton,
Hanc posuere petram regis ad imperium.”

The entrance to the second court is through a passage on the left hand of the gate of the first. The cloisters on the east side support the library, which is a light pleasant room, ornamented with a most elegant ceiling, and containing a respectable collection of books. On the south side of the court stands the chapel, which is at once neat and splendid. The roof, which is a frame of wood, is an admirable imitation of gothic stone work, and the altar, with its decorations, is particularly deserving of attention. It was finished in the year 1667, as was the whole court. The east window of this chapel is enriched with compartments of painted glass, finely executed by Pearson, from drawings of the late celebrated Mr. Mortimer. In the Anti-Chapel is an elegant monument to the memory of the late principal, Dr. Shippen, who was a great benefactor to this college.

An elegant house, connected with the college, and fronting the High Street has been lately fitted up at a considerable expense for the accommodation of the principal.

This college was founded in the year 1509, by Richard Smith, bishop of Lincoln, and Sir Richard Sutton, knight, of Presbury, in Cheshire, for the maintenance of one principal and 12 fellows. To this number succeeding benefactions have added 8 fellows, 32 scholars, and 15 exhibitioners. The late principal, Dr. Shippen, likewise procured it several advowsons.

With respect to the very singular name of this college, it appears, that the founders erected their house on the site of two ancient hostels or halls, viz. Little University Hall, and Brazen-nose Hall. The latter of

these acquired its name from some students removed to it from a seminary in the temporary university of Stamford, so denominated on account of an iron ring fixed in a nose of brass, and serving as a knocker to the gate.

The present members of this house are, one principal, 20 fellows, 32 scholars, and four exhibitors; together with about 40 or 50 students. Visitor, the bishop of Lincoln.

CORPUS CHRISTI COLLEGE.—This college, which is situated near the back gate of Christ Church, consists of one handsome quadrangle, with some elegant appendant buildings. The entrance to the quadrangle (in which there is a peculiar appearance of neatness) is by a beautiful Gothic gateway. On the east stands the hall, which is handsomely wainscotted, and well proportioned, with beautiful Gothic rafters. In the midst of this court is a curious column, exhibiting a cylindrical dial; the construction of which is esteemed a valuable piece of old gnomonics; and was constructed in the year 1605, by Charles Turnbull, one of the fellows. To the south of this court is an elegant pile of building of the Ionic order, which fronts Christ's Church meadow, and was erected by Dr. Turner, formerly president, in the year 1706. There is likewise another structure, of the modern kind, near the hall, appropriated to gentlemen commoners, whose number the founder has confined to six. This building was erected in the year 1737.

The Chapel is 70 feet in length and 25 in breadth, with a screen and altar-piece of cedar: and over the communion table is a painting by Reubens of the Adoration, presented by Sir Richard Worsley.

The library, which is well furnished with books, is remarkable for a collection of pamphlets from the Reformation to the Revolution; an English bible, said to be of higher antiquity than that of Wickliffe; and a vellum roll, which exhibits the pedigree of the royal family, with the collateral branches, from Alfred to Edward I. richly decorated with their arms

blazoned and signed by the kings at arms; but the most striking curiosity is an ancient manuscript history of the bible in French, illuminated with a series of beautiful paintings, illustrating the sacred story. It was given by General Oglethorpe, formerly member of this house. Here is shown also the crosier of the founder, which, although a fine specimen of antique workmanship, is by no means equal to that of Wykeham at New College. Here is likewise preserved part of the founder's chapel plate, consisting of two platters, a golden chalice of very elegant form, and a vase of silver gilt, with its cover curiously wrought, and enriched with an amethyst and pendant pearls, together with his episcopal ring.

This college was founded in the year 1516, and endowed with lands, of four hundred pounds per annum, by Richard Fox, who was successively bishop of Exeter, Bath and Wells, Durham, and Winchester; and lord privy seal to king Henry VII. and VIII. It was originally endowed for the maintenance of one president, 20 fellows, 20 scholars, two chaplains, two clerks, and two choristers. The statutes ordain, that the fellows should be elected from the scholars, and the latter from the counties and dioceses following, viz. two from Surrey, three from Hampshire, one from Durham, two from Bath and Wells, two from Exeter, two from Lincolnshire, two from Gloucestershire, one from Wiltshire, or in defect of a candidate, the diocese of Sarum; one from Bedfordshire, two from Kent, one from Oxfordshire, and one from Lancashire.

The principal benefactor appears to have been Hugh Oldham, chaplain to Margaret, countess of Richmond, and afterwards bishop of Exeter; for the founder having intended his society as a seminary to the monks of St. Swithin's cathedral at Westminster, Oldham persuaded him to change his design, and to make it a college of secular students on the academic plan; contributing at the same time 600 marks for the completion of the building, besides

certain estates for the augmentation of its revenue. William Frost, the founder's steward; John Claymond, the first president; and Robert Morwent, the second; with some others, have likewise given lands, &c. Arthur Parsons, M. D. sometime fellow, also gave 3000l. towards purchasing advowsons.

According to Tanner, in his Not. Mon. the endowment of this college amounted, in the year 1534, to the yearly value of 382l. 8s. 9d.

The present members are, one president, 20 fellows, two chaplains, 20 scholars, four exhibitioners, and six gentlemen commoners. Visitor, the Bishop of Winchester.

CHRISTCHURCH COLLEGE.—This college consists of four courts or squares, viz. The great quadrangle; Peck-water-square, Canterbury-court, the Chaplain's court, with some other buildings.

The stately front of this college is extended to the length of 382 feet, and terminated at either end by two corresponding turrets. In the centre is the grand entrance, whose Gothic proportions and ornaments are remarkably magnificent. Over it is a beautiful tower planned by Sir Christopher Wren, and erected by Dr. Fell: this tower contains the great bell called *Tom*, (the weight of which is 17,000 lbs. Great Tom originally belonged to Oseney Abbey in this city, but was re-cast in 1680. It bears this inscription, *Magnus Thomas Clusius Oxoniensis*. When this bell tolls at nine in the evening, the scholars, according to the University statutes, must retire to their respective colleges. The celebrated glee, entitled "The Merry Christ Church Bells," was written by Dean Aldrich.

The great quadrangle is 264 by 261 feet in the clear; the east, north, and west sides, with part of the south, consist of the lodgings of the dean, the canons, and the students, &c. The greatest part of the south side is formed by the Hall, which is considerably elevated above the rest of the buildings, and the whole finished with a ballustrade of stone, and,

taken as a detached structure, is a noble specimen of ancient magnificence. The south, east, and part of the west sides, were erected by cardinal Wolsey, as was the magnificent kitchen to the south of the hall. The north, and what remained of the west side of this court, was finished in the year 1665. By the marks on the wall, it has been supposed by some that this area was formerly surrounded by a cloister: indeed, it is evident that a cloister was designed; but it does not appear that it was ever executed.

Round the whole of this area is a spacious terrace walk, and in the centre a bason and fountain, with a statue of Mercury. On the inside, over the grand entrance, is a statue of queen Anne; and over the arch, in the north-east angle, another of bishop Fell; opposite which, at the south-east, is a fine one of cardinal Wolsey, executed by Francis Bird, of Oxford. Under this statue of the cardinal, is the entrance to the hall, by a spacious and stately staircase of stone, covered with a beautiful roof, built in the year 1030, which, though very broad, is supported by a small single pillar of fine proportion. The staircase and entrance into the hall have lately been altered at a considerable expense, under the direction of Mr. Wyatt, with a view of rendering them more conformable to the rest of the buildings. The hall is probably the largest, and certainly the most superb of any college-hall in the kingdom: it has eight windows on each side, is 150 feet in length, and its ceiling 50 feet high. This room has been refitted at a great expense, and is adorned with the portraits of eminent persons, educated at, or connected with the college. The roof is a noble frame of rafter work, beautified with near 300 coats of arms, properly blazoned; and enriched with other decorations of painting, carving, and gilding, in the Gothic taste.

The church of this college, which is the cathedral church of the Bishop of Oxford, is situated to the east of the grand quadrangle. It is an ancient vene-

able structure, and was originally the church of St. Frideswida's monastery, on or near the site of which the college is erected. The roof of the choir is a beautiful piece of stone work, erected by Cardinal Wolsey, who likewise rebuilt, or refitted the spire, as it now stands, the original one having been much loftier. The east window is elegantly painted by Mr. Price, senior, from a design of Sir James Thornhill, representing the Epiphany. In the aisle, on the north of the choir, which was the dormitory of St. Frideswida, is an ancient monument, said to be the tomb of that saint, who died in the year 740. At the west end of the same aisle is a painted window, executed by Isaac Oliver, and given by him to the college in the year 1700; the subject is St. Peter delivered out of prison by the angel. Many remains of painted glass, remarkable for strength and brilliancy of colour, appear in different parts of the church; for the windows, having been for the most part destroyed in the year 1651, some of the fragments have been lately collected, and disposed with great taste into complete windows or compartments. The tower contains ten musical bells, brought hither from Oseney Abbey, as was the great bell called Tom, above-mentioned. In this cathedral choir-service is performed at ten and five every day. This church was designed by the cardinal for private masses and theological exercises only; the foundation stones of the church or chapel intended for public service, being still visible in the gardens, on the north side of the great quadrangle, which, as Wood tells us, would have been an august and immense work. In the Chapter House, which is a beautiful Gothic room, are two portraits, admirably painted, and in the most perfect preservation, which are said to have belonged to Henry VIII. the one representing an elderly, the other a young man, both in black bonnets, and as large as life: on the back of one is the following mark, No. H. R. 2, on the other No. H. R. 25. The

former is supposed to be Frederick the Wise, duke of Saxony, and the latter Philip, Arch-duke of Austria.

The Cathedral is entered by a door way of Saxon architecture, and specimens of the same style interspersed with alterations by Norman builders are evident in various directions. The pillars of the nave are beautifully executed; and the choir has a Gothic roof of splendid tracery work, constructed either by Cardinal Wolsey or Bishop King, and was paved with black and white marble in 1630, at which time the old stalls were removed and the present erected. The chapel in which Latin prayers are read opens into the eastern cloister. This noble room is believed to have been built in the reign of Henry III.

Christ Church Cathedral, is in every point of view, one of the most interesting objects connected with the college. This building has undergone some important alterations, among which the present spire was constructed by Wolsey; but the chief parts can be historically traced to the reign of Henry I. and the style of architecture proves that in reality it owes its foundation to a much earlier period. The church is cruciform, with a square tower, surmounted by a spiral steeple, rising in the centre. Though always much inferior to the splendid edifice of Oseney Abbey, it was originally more extensive than at present. Fifty feet at the west end, with the whole west side of the cloister, were pulled down by Wolsey when he laid the foundation of his college. The present length of the building, from east to west, is 154 feet, and the aisle that crosses from north to south is 102 feet long. The height of the roof in the choir, is 37 feet and a half, and in the western part of the structure 41 feet and a half.

The Dormitory, situate to the north of the choir, contains several very ancient monuments, among which the following deserve particular notice:—A large altar tomb, believed to be that of St. Frideswida, surmounted by a shrine. On the flat surface of this monument are the marks of some brasses now

lost, two of which appear to have represented human figures at full length. The shrine in which the presumed relic is preserved, is lofty, and richly adorned with tracery work. The lower division is of stone, and the two upper compartments are of wood carved in the same fashion. This supposed Holy Virgin died in October 740, and her shrine is said to have been first placed in a chapel on the south side of the church; but being nearly destroyed, in the conflagration caused by the assault of the Danes in 1002, it was neglected till 1180, when it was removed to its present situation, and was visited by such crowds of the superstitious, that the stone steps of a retired oratory at the back of the shrine were considerably worn by the tread of the devotees. A new shrine was raised in the year 1280; but this was destroyed in the reign of Henry VIII., so that the presumed bones of the saint, which were not interred, but merely deposited on the shrine, are supposed by Wood to have been irrecoverably lost, whilst those afterwards shewn in two silken bags were only feigned. However, these mouldering fragments remained the admiration of many devotees till the reign of Queen Elizabeth, when they were again brought into notice by the following singular circumstance:—When Peter Martyr, the Reformer, visited England under the protection of the Duke of Somerset and Archbishop Cranmer, he became a canon of Christ Church. Martyr went abroad on the accession of Queen Mary, and died at Zurich; but his wife Catherine died at Oxford, and was buried near the monument of St. Frideswida. In the reign of Queen Mary one of those absurd posthumous trials not unusual in the early ages of church controversy, took place with respect to this female heretic, and her body was taken from this consecrated place of sepulchre and contemptuously buried beneath a dunghill, where it lay till 1561, when it was restored to its former situation with much ceremony. At the same time the reputed bones of St. Frideswida

were removed from the silken bags in which they had lately reposed, and were ordered to be mixed and interred in the same grave with those of Martyr's wife, to prevent the power of distinguishing them, should the age of superstition return. Near to the shrine of St. Frideswida, is the rich monument of Lady Elizabeth Montacute, who died in 1353, with her effigy in the costume of the time. Her dress, even down to the wrists, is enamelled with gold, and the different colours expressive of nobility. In the same range is the tomb of Guimond, the first prior, with his effigy in a recumbent posture, the feet resting on a lion; he had been Chaplain to Henry the First, and died in 1149. No inscription remains on either of these monuments; but many eminent names of a more recent date stand recorded on various contiguous tablets. The subjects of the painted windows that are preserved, are the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah; Christ disputing with the Doctors; and the story of Jonah. Another window in the north aisle exhibits the delivery of Peter from prison, executed by Isaac Oliver at the age of 84, and a portrait on glass of Robert King, the first Bishop of Oxford. This was removed during the rage of the civil war; the colouring is extremely vivid, and the whole piece finely executed.

Few rooms are more impressive than the Hall of Christ Church, which was entirely rebuilt under the direction of Cardinal Wolsey. This grand refectory is 115 feet long, by 40 in width; and is fifty feet in height. The ceiling is of Irish oak, beautifully carved, with such occasional insertions of gilding as give alternate lustre and relief, while they do not detract from the sober majesty of the general effect. The windows are of intersected Gothic, and one in a recess on the southern side is among the finest specimens of that mode of architectural disposal. At the upper end of the hall is an ascent of three steps, and the whole flooring is composed of stone. The sides are of pannelled wainscot, but the great ornament of

these consists in an extensive collection of portraits; among the most striking is an original half length of Wolsey, with a perspective view of the Hall through a window in a corner of the picture. A fine whole length of Henry VIII. Queen Elizabeth drawn with an immense hoop, a slender waist, and the sleeves of her dress thickly padded. The face is that of middle life, and is far from unpleasing. She has in her hand one of those fans of feathers which were constructed during her reign with so much cost and delicacy. This picture was presented by Lord Dartmouth, in whose family it had been long preserved; but the artist was unknown. Compton, Bishop of London, by Sir Peter Lely, is a fine portrait, the figure sedate, and the colouring chaste. Bishop Saunderson is an original by Riley. Dr. Busby, his hand on a book, and a pupil in attendance; the face possesses more of judgment than severity; the colouring is warm, and the whole picture replete with character and animation.

The roof of the stair-way which leads to the hall, is vaulted and ornamented with bold and beautiful varieties of gothic embellishment. This roof is supported by a single pillar, calculated to surprise on account of its slender dimensions, rather than to add correspondent splendour to the effect of the whole.

Under the hall is the common room, in which are several good portraits, and a bust of Dr. Busby by Rysbrack.

Peck-water court is situated to the north-east of the great quadrangle, and is perhaps the most elegant edifice in the University. It consists of three sides, each of which has 15 windows in front. The lower story is rustic, the second and attic are of the height and dimensions of the Ionic; its architect was Dean Aldrich; and its principal founder Dr. Radcliffe, a canon of this church, assisted by other contributions. Opposite to this court is a sumptuous library, 141 feet in length, supported by pillars of the Corinthian order. It was first intended to have

erected this structure on piazzas, which would have given it a lighter air: in the place of which, apartments are formed for the reception of General Guise's valuable collection of paintings, lately bequeathed to the college, and for the residue of the books, which could not be placed in the upper room. The south side of this library is furnished with elegant book-cases, extending to the whole length of the room, with a gallery above; and between the windows, on the opposite side, is likewise placed a series of book-cases, respectively assigned to the several sciences; over each of which there are beautiful festoons in stucco, charged with symbolical imagery, severally representing the particular branch of literature contained beneath: the ceiling is likewise richly ornamented with masterly compartments of stucco. The wainscotting, &c. which is of the finest Norway oak, together with the bannisters of the gallery, are all highly finished with carving. On a pedestal, in a recess on the north side, is placed an admirable whole length statue of Locke, formerly a student of this house, by Roubilliac. At each end are likewise marble busts, one of Dr. Boulter, late primate of Ireland; the other of Dr. Friend, late master of Westminster school. Towards the south of the library are several apartments, likewise furnished with book-cases, and cabinets for manuscripts.

East of this quadrangle is Canterbury Court, originally Canterbury Hall; being formerly a distinct college, founded in the year 1363, by Islip, archbishop of Canterbury, but being afterwards dissolved was taken into this foundation. The ancient buildings of this court, which were falling into decay, have been lately taken down, and, by the munificence of a late primate of Ireland, and other liberal benefactors, the whole of the court and gateway has been elegantly rebuilt, after the design, and under the direction of Mr. Wyatt.

The Chaplain's Court is situated to the south-east of Wolsey's quadrangle, on the north side of which

is a light Gothic edifice, formerly belonging to St. Frideswida's monastery, and named St. Lucia's Chapel. It was lately used for a library, but is now converted into chambers for the use of the society. To the south of this chapel is an elegant range of buildings, commonly styled Fell's, which fronts a noble walk, belonging to the college, called White Walk, upwards of two furlongs in length, and 50 feet wide, shaded on each side with lofty elms, and commanding a delightful prospect of the adjacent meadows, the river, and the neighbouring villages.

The court of the Grammar School is situated to the south of the great quadrangle, having the hall on the north side of it; under part of the hall is the spacious common room, in which there is an excellent bust, by Rysbrack, of Dr. Busby, formerly master of Westminster School, and a considerable benefactor to this college: this room likewise contains pictures of several masters of the same school, and other eminent members of this society. On the south side of the court is the New Anatomical Theatre, erected and endowed by the late Dr. Lee, physician to King George II. at the expense of 20,000*l*. In it is a fine collection of anatomical preparations, injections, &c.

Christ Church was originally founded by Cardinal Wolsey, in the year 1524, for the support of a dean, a subdean, 100 canons, 10 public readers, 13 chaplains, 12 clerks, 16 choristers, besides officers and servants. But while the cardinal was completing this design, having actually admitted 18 canons, about the year 1529, he fell into disgrace; when King Henry VIII. seized upon the foundation, which he suspended till the year 1532, when he re-established it under the name of King Henry the Eighth's College, for one dean and 12 canons. This foundation was, however, suppressed in the year 1545, by the same king, who the next year removed hither the episcopal see first established in Oseney Abbey, and constituted the church of St. Frideswida a cathedral,

by the name of Christ's Church. At the same time, on part of Wolsey's original revenues, he established a dean, eight canons, eight chaplains, eight clerks, eight choristers, and an organist; together with 60 students, 40 grammar-scholars, a schoolmaster, and usher. In this form the foundation has remained ever since, except that queen Elizabeth, in the year 1561, converted the forty grammar-scholars into academical students: ordering at the same time, that their vacancies should be supplied from Westminster school. Thus 100 students were established, to which number William Thurstone, Esq. in the year 1668, added one.

The benefactors to this college have been numerous; the principal of whom are Dean Fell and Lady Holford, who gave several exhibitions for scholars educated at the Charter-House; and the late Dr. Lee, above mentioned.

This college, or church, consists at present of one dean, eight canons, eight chaplains, eight singing-men, one organist, eight choristers, 101 students, besides many independent members; the whole number being about 180.—Visitor, the King.

TRINITY COLLEGE.—This college is situated opposite the Turl, a spacious avenue, fenced from the street by an handsome iron palisade, with folding gates, adorned on the outside with the arms of the Earl of Guilford, and on the inside with those of the founder, leads to the front of the college, which consists of the chapel, and the gateway with its tower. Over the gate, in stone, are the arms of the founder, surrounded with a wreath of laurel, and supported by the genii of Fame.

The approach to this college has lately been widened, so as to exhibit the whole front of the chapel towards the street, which produces a very noble, and beautiful effect.

In the first court are the Chapel, Hall, Library, and Lodgings of the president. The chapel possesses a peculiar elegance, which results from an as-

semblage of the most finished, and yet the most simple ornaments. The carvings about the screen and altar, which are of cedar, by the masterly hand of Gibbons, are finished in an exquisite taste. The altar-piece, which consists of a beautiful specimen of needle-work, representing the Resurrection, was executed and presented to the college, by Miss Althea Fanshawe, of Shiplake Hill, near Henley-upon-Thames. It is worked in worsted, with exquisite taste and brilliancy of colouring, from the painting by West in Windsor Chapel. Under an alcove near the altar, is a fine Gothic tomb, on which are the recumbent figures of the liberal founder and his lady, in alabaster, in the finest preservation. The ceiling of this chapel is covered with a bold and beautiful stucco, and in the midst of it is an Ascension, which is executed in a good style, by Peter Berchet, an eminent French painter.

The hall is spacious and well-proportioned, partly in the Gothic style, and adorned with a portrait of the founder. The ceiling has been lately enriched with stucco; and, by other decorations and improvements, this room is rendered both elegant and commodious. Over the chimney-piece are the arms of Queen Mary and King Philip, painted by Catton, with the date 1554.

In the library is shewn a valuable manuscript of Euclid; being a translation from the Arabic into Latin, before the discovery of the original Greek, by Adelardus Bathionensis, in the year 1150. It was given by the founder, together with several other manuscripts, who likewise furnished this library with many costly printed volumes, chiefly in folio, at that time esteemed no mean collection.

In the library windows are many compartments of old painted glass, but much injured by the presbyterians in the grand rebellion; the painted glass in the original of this college, which is reported to have been remarkably fine, was entirely destroyed by the same spirit of sacrilegious and barbarous

zeal: still farther exasperated at the following inscription, written in the great east window over the altar, "*Orate pro anima Domini Thomæ Pope, Militis aurati, Fundatoris hujus Collegii.*"

In the President's lodgings are two good pictures of the founder, copied from Hans Holbein; but ancient: and two large original pictures, both on board, of Adams, bishop of Limerick, and Wright, bishop of Litchfield and Coventry, in the reigns of James I. and Charles I., formerly fellows; together with a head of Thomas Allen, fellow, a famous mathematician and antiquary, by Dobson; and in the bursary is a curious old picture of Lady Elizabeth Paulet, the founder's third wife, supposed to be painted by Sir Antonio More, about the year 1570—Also three other valuable portraits of the founder and the presidents Kettel and Bathurst.

The second court is an elegant pile, planned by Sir Christopher Wren, and said, by Wood, to be one of the first pieces of modern architecture that appeared in the University. It consists of three sides, with an opening to the gardens on the east, which has a singular and most agreeable effect.

The gardens are remarkably beautiful, consisting of two divisions, which furnish alternate shade and sunshine; the first or larger division being thrown into open grass plats, while the southern division consists of shady walks, with a wilderness of flowering shrubs, and disposed into serpentine-paths. The centre walk is terminated by a well-wrought iron-gate, with the founder's arms at the top, supported by two piers.

This college was founded in the year 1554, by Sir Thomas Pope, *knt.* of Tittenhanger, in Hertfordshire, treasurer of the Court of Augmentations, in the reign of Henry VIII. privy counsellor to the same king, and to Queen Mary, and a singular friend of Sir Thomas More; for the maintenance and education of a president, 12 fellows, and 12 scholars. The founder directs, that the scholars,

who succeed to the fellowships, shall be chosen from his manors; but if no candidates appear under such qualifications, on the day of election, which is on Trinity Monday, that they shall be supplied from any county in England. He also appoints, that no more than two natives of the same county shall be fellows of his college at the same time, Oxfordshire excepted, from which county five are permitted.

The principal and almost only benefactor is Dr. Ralph Bathurst, formerly president; who expended 1900*l.* in rebuilding the chapel, the ancient one having been miserably defaced during the Civil Wars.

This college at present consists of one president, 12 fellows, and 12 scholars, instituted by the founder. These, with the independent members, amount to about 90.—Visitor, the Bishop of Winchester.

ST. JOHN'S COLLEGE.—This College is situated on a retired situation, on the north of Baliol and Trinity Colleges, having a terrace, shaded with a row of lofty elms, in front. It chiefly consists of two courts; the entrance to the first of which is by a handsome old gateway, with a tower over it; this court is formed by the hall and chapel on the north, the president's lodgings on the east; and the chambers of the fellows and students on the south and west sides. The chapel is neat and commodious. It is divided from the anti-chapel, by a new and elegant screen, over which is erected a handsome new organ. The altar is of the Corinthian order, and over the communion table is a beautiful piece of tapestry, from a painting of Titian, representing our Saviour and his two disciples at Emmaus. The eagle which supports the bible is a piece of curious workmanship, executed by Mr. Snetzler, of Oxford, and was the gift of Thomas Eskourt, Esq. late a gentleman commoner of this house. On the north side of the choir is a marble urn, containing the heart of Dr. Rawlinson, enclosed in a silver vessel, with this singular inscription: "*Ubi thesaurus, ibi*

cor." Choir-service is performed in this chapel every day, at 11 and 5.

The hall is fitted up in the modern taste with great elegance, being well proportioned, and handsomely wainscotted, with a beautiful arched roof, a screen of Portland stone, and a grand variegated marble chimney-piece, containing a picture of John the Baptist, by Guarini. It is likewise adorned with several other excellent pieces; at the upper end is a whole-length portrait of the founder, with Archbishop Laud on the right, and Archbishop Juxon on the left. On the north and south sides are those of Bishop Mew, Bishop Beveridge, Sir William Paddy, and other eminent men, who have either illustrated this society by their learning, or enriched it by their beneficence.

On the north side of the hall is the Common room, the ceiling of which is a good piece of stucco, by Mr. Roberts; and the whole room is handsomely adorned in general.

The second court, which is entered by a passage on the east side of the first, is the design of Inigo Jones, and built in the year 1635. The east and west sides exhibit each a beautiful Doric colonnade, the columns of which consist of a remarkable species of bluish stone, said to be dug at Fifield, in Berks. In the centre of each colonnade are two porticoes, charged with a profusion of embellishments. Over these, on each side, are two good statues in brass, cast by Francis Fanelli, a Florentine; that on the east of Charles I. and that on the west of his queen: their respective niches are ornamented with the Ionic and Corinthian orders; and the whole possesses an elegant and agreeable appearance. The upper stories of the south and east sides form the library: the first division of which consists of printed books; the second of manuscripts, chiefly given by archbishop Laud. This being furnished with cases of iron lattice work, which are disposed in a parallel direction with the sides, forms an ample and airy gallery. In this room the archbishop

above-mentioned entertained Charles I. and his court in a most magnificent manner. Among other curiosities is a drawing of king Charles I. which contains the book of Psalms written in the lines of the face and hair of the head. In an elegant gilt frame, at the north end of the inner library, is a fine figure of St. John the Baptist in the Wilderness, after Raphael, beautifully stained upon what, at first sight, appears to be a piece of high-polished marble; but which is in reality a composition equally compact and durable, called Scagliola. The east window of this library is adorned with the coats of arms of the founder, the company of merchant tailors, and of several benefactors to the college, in curious and well-painted glass.

The gardens, which are both extensive and beautiful by the late improvements, possess all those graces arising from a well-regulated variety, and a succession of beauties judiciously diversified and disposed.

This college was founded by Sir Thomas White, alderman and merchant-tailor of London, in the year 1557, for the maintenance of one president, and 50 fellows, three chaplains, three clerks, and six choristers, &c. Two of the fellowships are ordered to be supplied from Coventry, two from Bristol, two from Reading, and one from Tunbridge; the rest from merchant-tailors' school in London. The benefactors have been very numerous, and no less considerable. Sir William Paddy founded and endowed the present choir, that originally established by the founder having been dissolved, by unanimous consent of the society, in the year 1517, the revenues of the college being found insufficient for its maintenance. Archbishop Laud erected the second court, its south side excepted, which was built in the year 1595, with the stones of the Carmelite Friery in Gloucester Green; the company of merchant-tailors in London, amongst several other benefactions, contributing 200*l*. Archbishop Juxon,

gave 7000*l.*, to augment the fellowships ; Dr. Holmes, formerly president, with his lady, gave 15,000*l.* for improving the salaries of the officers, and other purposes. And Dr. Rawlinson, above-mentioned, granted the reversion of a large estate, in fee-farm rents.

This college was founded on the site of Bernard's College, erected in the year 1487, by Archbishop Chichely, the liberal founder of All Soul's College. The present old quadrangle, part of the east side excepted, is the original edifice of Chichely, no building being added at the new foundation by Sir T. White.

The present members are, one president, 50 fellows, two chaplains, an organist, five singing men, six choristers, and two sextons, the number of students of all sorts being about 80. Visitor, the Bishop of Winchester.

JESUS COLLEGE.—This college, which consists of two courts, is situated opposite to Exeter College. It has a handsome front, rebuilt in the year 1756.

In the first court is the hall, which has been much improved by the addition of a ceiling and other ornaments, executed in stucco by the late Mr. Roberts—in this room there is likewise a portrait of queen Elizabeth : the principal's lodgings, in which is shewn a valuable picture of Charles I. at full length, by Vandyke : and the chapel, which is handsomely fitted up and well proportioned. Of these the first was erected in the year 1617 ; the second soon after the year 1621 ; and the last was completed in the year 1636.

Three sides of the inner court were begun by Dr. Mansel, one of the principals, a little before the grand rebellion ; they are built in an uniform manner ; the hall above-mentioned forms the fourth side of this quadrangle. The library, which is on the west side, is a well-furnished room, and adorned, among other portraits, with a curious picture of Dr. Hugh Price, supposed to have been painted by

Hans Holbein, having been engraved as such by Vertue.

This college was founded, according to the purport of its charter, dated June 27th, 1571, by Queen Elizabeth, for one principal, eight fellows, and eight scholars. Nearly at the same time it also received an endowment of land, of about 160*l.* per annum, since lost, from Hugh Price, L. D. a native of Brecknock, and treasurer of the church of St. David's, who likewise erected a part of the first court.

The chief benefactors are, Sir Eubule Thelwall, formerly principal, who increased the number of fellows and scholars from eight to sixteen; Francis Mansell, D.D.; Sir Leoline Jenkins; King Charles I. besides many others.

In the bursary is shewn a sumptuous piece of plate, the gift of the late Sir Watkin Williams Wynne; also the statutes of the college, exquisitely written on vellum, by the Rev. Mr. Parry, of Shipton-upon-Stower, formerly fellow.

This college consists at present of one principal, 19 fellows, 18 scholars, with many exhibitioners and independent students; in all about 80 or 90. Visitor, the Earl of Pembroke.

WADHAM COLLEGE.—This college, which stands opposite to Trinity College, in the northern suburb, called Holiwell, consists chiefly of one large quadrangle, about 130 feet square.

At the south-east angle of this court is the Hall, to the east of which is the library; the former is a spacious and lofty Gothic room, and furnished with some valuable portraits. The portico leading to this building is decorated with the statues of King James I. and Nicholas and Dorothy Wadham, the founders. The library presents nothing remarkable in its decorations and furniture.

The Chapel, at the north-east angle of the court, is an extensive and venerable pile; and the anti-chapel, like those at Merton, New College, All Souls, and Magdalene, runs at right angles to the

choir, having a proportionable height, length, and breadth. The east window of this chapel, representing the Passion of our Saviour, is admirably painted by Van Ling, a Dutchman, in the year 1623. It was given by Sir John Strangeways, and is said to have cost 1,500*l*. The windows on the right side, appear to have been executed by the same hand, but those on the left are poor, and of a later age; but the most singular curiosity in this chapel is the painted cloth, at the lower end of the altar. The painting is on cloth, which being of an ash colour, serves for the medium; the lines and shades are done with a brown crayon, and the lights and heightening with a white one. These dry colours being pressed with hot irons, which produced an exudation from the cloth, are so incorporated into its texture and substance, that they are a proof against a brush, of even the harshest touch. The figures are finely drawn, and have a pleasing effect, but the colours are now much faded. It was executed by Isaac Fuller, who painted the Resurrection piece over the altar, at Magdalene: the subject of the front is the Lord's Supper, on the north side Abraham and Melchisedeck; and on the south the Children of Israel gathering manna.

The cloister, with its superstructure, in the midst of which is a handsome common room, forms a sort of east front to the college, from whence is a beautiful prospect over the meadows to the distant hills.

This college was designed by Nicholas Wadham, Esq. of Merifield, in Somersetshire, and erected in pursuance of his will by Dorothy his widow, in the year 1611, for the maintenance of one warden, 15 fellows, 15 scholars, two chaplains, and two clerks. The statutes direct that the warden shall quit the college in case of marriage; that the fellows shall enjoy the benefit of the society no longer than 18 years, after their regency in arts; that the scholars from whom the fellows are chosen, shall be appointed three from Somersetshire, three from Essex, and the remainder from any part of Great Britain.

The buildings of this house have not received the least alteration from the time of the foundress; and as they now stand are the entire result of the first architect. From this circumstance they derive an uniformity and regularity, scarcely to be paralleled in any other college of this University.

The principal benefactors to this college are John Goodridge, A. M. who gave, in the year 1654, his whole estate at Walthamstow in Essex, for the endowment of several exhibitions, &c. and Dr. Hody, Greek professor, who founded four exhibitions for students in Hebrew, and for six others in Greek, of 10l. each. Dr. Philip Bisse, archdeacon of Taunson, gave about 2000 volumes to the library; in which is preserved his portrait, at full length, given by the foundress. Lord Wyndham lately bequeathed 2000l; 1500l. of which are appointed for the increase of the warden's salary, and the residue for ornamenting the house; and Lisle, the late warden, bishop of Norwich, added two exhibitions.

This college consists of one warden, 15 fellows, 15 scholars, two chaplains, two clerks, and 16 exhibitioners, at 10l. per annum each; the whole number of members being about 100. Visitor, the Bishop of Bath and Wells.

PEMBROKE COLLEGE.—This college, which is situated opposite to the grand gate of Christ Church, consists of two small courts. To the right of the entrance are the Master's lodgings, which make a handsome appearance, and are large and convenient. The hall, which stands at the north-west angle of the first court is adorned with several pictures of the founder and benefactors.

The Chapel, which is modern, is a handsome building of the Ionic order, with a beautiful altarpiece, which is justly admired for its neatness; and the whole is elegantly finished and properly adorned. It was built by contribution; and consecrated in the year 1732, previous to which, their chapel was an aisle in the adjoining church of St. Aldate.

Westward of the chapel is the garden, in which is a pleasant common room, and an agreeable terrace walk, formed on the city wall.

This college was founded in the year 1620, by the joint benefaction of Thomas Tesdale, of Glympton, in Oxfordshire, and Richard Wightwick, S. T. B. rector of Ilsley, Berks, for one master, 10 fellows, and 10 scholars. Four of Mr. Tesdale's fellows to be chosen out of his relations, and the rest who have received their education at Abingdon free-school. Two of the fellows and two scholars, on Mr. Wightwick's benefaction to be of his kindred, and the rest from Abingdon School. The former gentleman gave 5000*l.* in money, and the latter 100*l.* per annum in land. The society has, however, been much enlarged by the addition of several fellowships, scholarships, and exhibitions. Charles I. granted the living of St. Aldate, in Oxford, together with a fellowship. Juliana Stafford, in the year 1628, founded two scholarships. Francis Rous, in the year 1657, three exhibitions. Dr. George Morley, bishop of Winton, founded five scholarships for the natives of Guernsey and Jersey; besides these Sir John Bennet, afterwards lord Ossulston, eight exhibitions. Queen Anne likewise annexed a prebend of Gloucester to the mastership; and not many years since Lady Holford added two exhibitions. Sir John Phillips, Bart. in the year 1745, founded one fellowship, and one scholarship, with an advowson annexed. Dr. Hall, master of this college, and bishop of Bristol, built the lodgings of the master, together with the gateway of the college, soon after the Restoration.

This college was originally Broadgate Hall, a flourishing house of learning, famous for the study of the civil law, and in which Camden received part of his education. It obtained the name of Pembroke College, from the memorable Earl of Pembroke, who was chancellor of the University when the college was founded, and whose interest was particu-

larly instrumental in its establishment. The society at present consists of one master, 14 fellows, 30 scholars and exhibitioners; the whole number of members being about 70. Visitor, the Chancellor of the University.

WORCESTER COLLEGE.—This college is situated at the extremity of the western suburbs, on an eminence, which descends to the river and meadows. Its court or area consists of three sides, which are to be completed in the modern taste. At present the eastern side only, together with the north wing, are finished. On the west it is proposed to form a garden, sloping to the water; so that a most agreeable prospect will be opened to the college. The library is a neat Ionic edifice, 100 feet in length, supported by a spacious cloister: and furnished with a fine collection of books, the gift of Dr. Clarke, formerly fellow of All Soul's College. Its greatest curiosity is Inigo Jones's Palladio, with his own manuscript notes in Italian.

On the entrance into the college on each side are the Chapel and Hall, both of which are fifty feet in length, and 29 in breadth. On the whole, if this house should be executed according to the plan proposed, it will be one of the most elegant structures in the University.

This college was founded in the year 1714, by the benefaction of Sir Thomas Cookes, of Bently in Worcestershire. To his endowment have since been added two fellowships and two scholarships, by Dr. Fynney, and two exhibitioners for Charter House scholars by Lady Holford; the principal benefactors, however, have been Mrs. Eaton, daughter of Dr. Eaton, principal of Gloucester Hall, who founded six fellowships in the year 1735; and Dr. Clarke, fellow of All Soul's College, who gave six fellowships and three scholarships, in the year 1736; besides other considerable bequests.

This house was originally called Gloucester College, being a seminary for educating the novices of

Gloucester monastery, as it was likewise for those of other religious houses. It was founded in the year 1283, by John Gifford, baron of Brimsfield. When suppressed at the reformation, it was converted into a palace for the bishop of Oxford; but was soon afterwards erected into an academical hall, by Sir Thomas White, the founder of St. John's College; in which state it continued, till it at length received a charter of incorporation, and a small endowment from Sir Thomas Cookes.

The society at present consist of a provost, 21 fellows, 16 scholars, &c. The whole number being about 70. Visitor, the Chancellor of the University.

HERTFORD COLLEGE.—This college is situated opposite to the gate of the Schools, and consists of one court: the entire plan is, however, far from being complete; it being intended to be erected in the form of a quadrangle, each angle to consist of three staircases, and fifteen single apartments, and every apartment to contain an outward room, a bed-place, and a study; of these the south-east angle, and the chapel in the south, with the principal's lodgings in the east, are completed. The hall in the north, and the gateway, with the library over it, in the west, are remains of an ancient structure. This college having escheated to the crown, was dissolved in 1820.

This house was formerly called Hartford, or Hart Hall, founded by Walter Stapleton, bishop of Exeter, in the year 1312, and belonged to Exeter College; but was converted into a college by Dr. Richard Newton, a late learned and public-spirited principal, who also consigned an estate towards its endowment. This ancient hostel received its charter as a college, September 8, 1740.

As an inducement to complete this college, it may be called by the name of any other person who will complete the endowment of it or become the principal benefactor to it.

The college consists, at present, of a principal, two senior fellows, some junior fellows, or assistants,

four scholars, &c. Visitor, the Chancellor of the University.

The discipline kept up in the several Colleges is very exact. Every student must, at least, till he has taken his first degree, reside in some College or Hall. He must have a tutor, perform all exercises with punctuality, observe all statutes, and be obedient to the head of the House. He must never be seen abroad without his academical habit, and must not be out of college at a later hour than nine in the evening. Such students as are not upon the different foundations, are divided into four classes of Noblemen, Gentlemen Commoners, Commoners, and Servitors. The number of Academicians, of all classes, is now about 3000.

The first dresses of students are supposed to have been made in imitation of those worn by the Benedictine Monks. A *Master of Arts* wears a gown of Prince's stuff, and a hood of black silk lined with crimson; the gown is remarkable for the semicircular cut at the bottom of the sleeve. *Bachelor of Arts*, Prince's stuff gown looped up at the elbow, and terminating in a point; black hood lined with fur. *Noblemen*, black silk gown with full sleeves; a tippet like that worn by the proctors, attached to the shoulders. *Gentleman Commoner*, silk gown plaited at the sleeves. *Commoner*, gown of Prince's stuff, no sleeves, a black strip appended from each shoulder, reaches to the bottom of the dress, and towards the top is gathered into plaits. *Student of Civil Law*, plain silk gown, with lilac hood. *Scholar*, gown like the commoners, but without plaits at the shoulders. Square black caps are worn by all ranks; but those of Noblemen and of gentlemen commoners, are of velvet. A gold tassel also distinguishes the cap of nobility. The cap worn by the servitor has no tassel; but those of every other rank, are distinguished by black ones. The proctors wear the gown of a Master of Arts, with ermined hood, and velvet sleeves.

HALLS.

Of the numerous halls, hostels, or inns, which were the only academical houses originally possessed by the students of Oxford, only five subsist at present. These societies are neither endowed nor incorporated. They are subject to their respective principals, whose salary arises from the room-rent of the house. The principals are appointed by the Chancellor of the University, that of Edmund Hall excepted, who is nominated by Queen's College, under whose patronage Edmund Hall still remains.

The five Halls now extant, are:

St. ALBAN'S HALL.—This hall is situated contiguous to Merton College on the east, and appears to have been a house of learning in the reign of Edward I. It received its name from Robert de St. Alban, a citizen of Oxford, who in the reign of John conveyed this tenement to the abbey of Littlemore. The front was erected, in the year 1595, by Benedict Barnham, alderman of London. It has a small refectory but no chapel.

EDMUND HALL.—This hall, which is situated to the east of Queen's College, was first established about the reign of Edward III. and was consigned to Queen's College in the year 1557. It has a library, refectory, and chapel, which are neat and commodious.

St. MARY'S HALL is situated in Oriel Lane, to the south of St. Mary's Church, and was erected by King Edward II. It consists of an elegant little court, which is formed by the principal's lodgings on the north, the hall and chapel on the south, and on the east and west by the chambers of the students. Sir Thomas More, and Sandys the poet, studied in this house.

The buildings of this society received considerable improvements in the last century, the east side having been entirely rebuilt, by the contributions of several noblemen and gentlemen educated here; and the

south side has likewise been lately raised and finished by the benefactions of Dr. Nowell, the late principal, and other members of the society. The number of students is about sixty.

NEW INN HALL.—This hall stands at the west end of the city, near the church of St. Peter in the Bailey; but no part of the buildings now remain, except a house for the principal. Almost opposite to this hall stands part of the gateway of St. Mary's College, in which Erasmus resided for some time, and who has left an elegant Latin poem on the manner of his living here. It was founded in the year 1437, for novices of the Augustine order, but suppressed at the Reformation.

MAGDALENE HALL.—This hall adjoins to the west side of Magdalene College, to which it is appendant, the most considerable part of it being a Grammar School for the choristers of that college, and erected with it by the founder, William Wainfleet, for that purpose alone. To this structure other buildings being added, it grew by degrees into an academical hall, and has a well-furnished library, with a neat chapel and refectory. Here are several exhibitions, and this seminary boasts the education of Lord Clarendon, the celebrated historian. The number of students is generally about seventy.

The fire that occurred at Magdalene Hall on a Sunday morning early in January, 1820, broke out in the Common Room of this Hall. The alarm was given by the coachman and guard of the Gloucester mail, who had seen the smoke from Headington hill. By their violent knocking and ringing at the gate, they soon succeeded in awaking the inmates. The cry of fire, in a short time brought the engines to the spot; but, from the extreme severity of the frost, it was some time before a sufficient quantity of water could be procured to enable them to act. In consequence of this unfortunate delay, the flames gained a considerable height before they were subdued. The building in which the fire broke out is in an

inner court, and almost detached from the rest; it consisted of fifteen sets of rooms and the Common Room: all that is saved of these are the shattered remains of four rooms in the north-east corner. Every thing in the rooms on both sides of the staircase in which the fire originated was consumed, with the exception of a very few articles, in a lower room, opposite the Common Room. Most of the furniture, books, manuscripts, &c. in the rooms of the next staircase, were preserved from destruction. One gentleman, who slept opposite the Common Room, had a narrow escape. He was taken from his bed when the flames were bursting into his room. The principal, and indeed almost the only article belonging to this gentleman, rescued from the devouring element, was a rare and valuable set of the works of Aristotle, in folio.—The first thought of Mr. Clarke, after he had himself been placed in safety, was the preservation of his favourite philosopher; “For God’s sake,” he exclaimed, dragging the servant towards the burning room, “do save my Aristotle.” Dr. Macbride, the Principal, and Mr. James, the Vice Principal, were both in Devonshire, but have since returned.

The other public buildings more particularly belonging to the University are the following :

THE NEW, OR RADCLIVIAN LIBRARY, which is situated in a superb square, formed by St Mary’s Church, the Schools, Brazen-nose and All Soul’s Colleges. This sumptuous building was erected at the expense of the gentleman whose name it bears, who left 40,000*l.* for this purpose; 150*l.* per annum for a librarian; 100*l.* per year to purchase books, and the same sum to keep the building in repair.

The basement, which is rustic, is 100 feet in diameter, composed of a double octagon, every square being distinguished by its projection, and a pediment forming a gateway. On this base is raised a cylindrical edifice, adorned with three-quarter columns of the Corinthian order, arranged in couplets, be-

tween which is an alternation of windows and niches, throughout the whole circumference. The entablature is highly finished with carving; over it is a balustrade, finished with vases; above which is a cupola 60 feet in height. Seven of the gateways above-mentioned are entrances into the portico or arcade, and enclose a spacious dome in the centre. Over each of the entrances is a dome of smaller dimensions, curiously wrought with a variety of Mosaic work. The eighth gateway is appropriated to a well executed flight of spiral steps, which leads into the library itself. This room, which is a complete pattern of elegance, rises into a capacious dome ornamented with fine compartments of stucco. The pavement is of two colours, and made of a peculiar species of stone, brought from Hartz Forest, in Germany. The room is enclosed by a circular series of arches, beautified with festoons, and supported by pilasters of the Ionic order. Behind these arches are formed two circular galleries, above and below, in which the books are arranged. The compartments of the ceiling in the upper gallery are finely stuccoed. Over the door, at the front entrance, is a statue of the founder, Dr. Radcliffe, by Rysbrack, which is most advantageously viewed from the point opposite to it in the last-mentioned gallery. Over the entrance of one of the galleries is a good bust of Gibbs, the architect.

The first stone of this magnificent edifice was laid the 17th of May, in the year 1737; and the library opened on the 13th of April, 1749, with great solemnity. The librarian, according to the founder's appointment, is nominated by the great officers of state.

In this library are a couple of superb Roman candlesticks, of incomparable workmanship, which were found in the ruins of the Emperor Adrian's palace at Tivoli, in the Campania Romana; they were given to the University by Sir Roger Newdigate, Bart.

THE PUBLIC SCHOOLS form a magnificent qua-

drangle; the principal front is about 175 feet in length; in the centre of which is a noble tower, whose highest apartments are appointed for astronomical observations, and other philosophical experiments. Three sides of the upper story of the quadrangle are one entire room, called the Picture Gallery. This is chiefly furnished with portraits of founders and benefactors, and of other eminent men; as also with cabinets of medals, and cases of books. It was wainscotted by the munificence of Dr. Butler, the late president of Magdalene College, and the late Duke of Beaufort. About the middle stands a noble statue in brass of Philip, Earl of Pembroke, designed by Rubens, and cast by Hubert le Soeur, a Frenchman, the same who executed the equestrian statue of Charles I. at Charing Cross. This room is in reality a part or continuation of the Bodleian Library, and under it are the schools of the several sciences; in a room to the north of which are placed the Arundelian marbles, given to the University by Henry, Duke of Norfolk, grandson to Lord Arundel, at the instance of Mr. Evelyn, when Arundel House in the Strand was taken down; and in another, the collection of statues, &c. which was presented to the University, by the late countess of Pomfret. The first stone of the Schools, with the exception of the divinity school, was laid March 30, 1613; and the buildings were carried on at the combined expense of many benefactors.

THE BODLEIAN, OR PUBLIC LIBRARY, is a part or member of the last-mentioned edifice. It consists of three spacious and lofty rooms, disposed in the form of a Roman H.—The middle room was erected by Humphrey, Duke of Gloucester, over the Divinity School, about the year 1440, and by him furnished with books, which have been since lost. The gallery on the West was raised at the expense of the University, under the chancellorship of Archbishop Laud, together with the Convocation House beneath. The vestibule or first gallery, with the proscholium

under it, was built by Sir Thomas Bodley, who furnished the whole with a collection of books, made with prodigious care and expense. He likewise assigned an estate for the maintenance of a librarian, &c. and the institution of a public fund for the library; adding a body of statutes, for the regulation of this establishment, which were afterwards confirmed by convocation. By these services he justly obtained the name of the founder of the library. He died the 8th of January, 1612. The original stock has been greatly enriched by the accession of many valuable collections of manuscripts, particularly Greek and Oriental; besides many additions of choice and useful books, from various benefactors, the principal of whom are, the Earl of Pembroke, Archbishop Laud, Sir Thomas Roe, Sir Kenelm Digby, General Fairfax, Dr. Marshall, Dr. Barlow, Dr. Rawlinson, and Mr. St. Amand. This library is said to contain the greatest number of books of any in Europe (except that of the Vatican,) though previous to the year 1300, the library of the University consisted only of a few tracts, which were kept in the choir of St. Mary's Church.

This Library and the Picture Gallery may be seen in the summer from eight to two o'clock, and in the afternoon from three to five. In the winter only till three in the afternoon.

THE DIVINITY SCHOOL stands under the same roof, it was begun at the expense of the University, in the year 1427, and afterwards completed, with its superb structure, by Humphrey, Duke of Gloucester. Its ceiling is a most finished piece of Gothic masonry, both in design and execution; and on the whole, it is probably the most complete Gothic room in this kingdom. At the end of it is the Convocation House, which is a spacious apartment, commodiously furnished and handsomely decorated. It was built with its superstructure, in the year 1639.

THE THEATRE.—The front of this building stands opposite to the Divinity School, and is adorned with Corinthian pillars, and statues with other decorations

The roof is flat, and not being supported either by columnus or arch-work, rests on the side walls, which are at the distance of 80 feet one way, and 70 feet the other. This roof is covered with allegorical pictures, done by Streater, serjeant-painter to Charles II. The following description of which is given in Dr. Plott's *Natural History of Oxfordshire*:

“In imitation of the Theatres of the ancient *Greeks* and *Romans*, which were too large to be covered with lead or tile, so this, by the painting of the flat roof within, is represented open; and as they stretched a cordage from pilaster to pilaster, upon which they strained a covering of cloth, to protect the people from the injuries of the weather, so here is a cord moulding gilded, that reaches across the house, both in length and breadth, which supporteth a great reddish drapery, supposed to have covered the roof, but now furled up by the *Genii* round about the house, towards the wall, which discovereth the open air, and maketh way for the descent of the *Arts* and *Sciences*, that are congregated in a circle of clouds, to whose assembly *Truth* descends, as being solicited and implored by them all.

“For joy of this festival some other *Genii* sport about the clouds, with their festoons of flowers and laurels, and prepare their garlands of laurels and roses, viz. *Honour* and *Pleasure*, for the great lovers and students of those arts: and that this assembly might be perfectly happy, their great enemies and disturbers, *Envy*, *Rapine*, and *Brutality*, are by the *Genii* of their opposite virtues, viz. *Prudence*, *Fortitude*, and *Eloquence*, driven from the society, and thrown down headlong from the clouds: the report of the assembly of the one, and the expulsion of the other, being proclaimed through the open and serene air, by some other of the *Genii*, who blowing their antick trumpets, divide themselves into the several quarters of the world. Thus far in general.

“More particularly, the circle of figures consists,

first of *Theology*, with her Book of Seven Seals, imploring the assistance of *Truth* for the unfolding of it.

“On her left hand is the *Mosaical Law*, veiled, with the tables of stone, to which she points with her iron rod.

“On her right hand is the *Gospel*, with the cross in one hand, and a chalice in the other.

“In the same division, over the *Mosaical Law*, is *History*, holding up her pen as dedicating it to *Truth*, and an attending *Genius*, with several fragments of old Writing, from which she collects her history into her books.

“On the other side, near the *Gospel*, is *Divine Poesy*, with her harp of David's fashion.

“In the triangle on the right hand of the *Gospel*, is also *Logick*, in a posture of arguing; and on the left hand of the *Mosaical Law* is *Musick*, with her antick lyre, having a pen in her hand, and a paper of Music Notes on her knee, with a *Genius* on her right hand, (a little within the partition of *Theology*) playing on a flute, being the emblem of ancient musick.

“On the left (but within the partition of *Physick*) *Dramatick Poesy*, with a vizard, representing *Comedy*, a bloody dagger for *Tragedy*, and the reed pipe for *Pastoral*.

“In the square, on the right side of the circle, is *Law*, with her ruling Sceptre, accompanied with Records, Patents, and Evidences on the one side, and on the other with *Rhetorick*: by these is an attending *Genius*, with the Scales of *Justice*, and a figure with a palm branch, the emblem of reward for virtuous actions; and the *Roman Fasces*, the marks of Power and Punishment.

“*Printing*, with a Case of Letters in one hand, and a Form ready set in the other, and by her several Sheets hanging to dry.

“On the left side the circle, opposite to *Theology*, in three squares, are the *Mathematical Sciences*, depending on *Demonstration*, as the other on *Faith*; in the first of which is *Astronomy*, with the Celestial Globe,

Geography, with the Terrestrial, together with three attending *Genii* having *Arithmetick* in the square on one hand, with a paper of figures; *Optics* with the perspective glass; *Geometry*, with a pair of compasses in her left hand; and a table, with geometrical figures in it, in her right hand. And in the square on the other hand, *Architecture* embracing the capital of a column, with compasses, and the norma or square lying by her, and a workman holding another square in one hand, and a plumb-line in the other.

"In the midst of these squares and triangles (as descending from above) is the figure of *Truth*, sitting as on a cloud, in one hand holding a palm-branch (the emblem of victory,) in the other the sun, whose brightness enlightens the whole circle of figures, and is so bright that it seems to hide the face of herself to the spectators below.

"Over the entrance of the front of the Theatre are three figures tumbling down; first *Envy*, with her snaky hairs, squint eyes, hag's breast, pale venomous complexion, strong but ugly limbs, and rivelled skin, frightened from above by the sight of the shield of *Pallas*, with the *Gorgon's* head in it, against which she opposes her snaky tresses; but her fall is so precipitous she has no command of her arms.

"Then *Rapine*, with her fiery eyes, grinning teeth, sharp twangs, her hands imbrued in blood, holding a bloody dagger in one hand, in the other a burning flambeau, with these instruments threatening the destruction of Learning, and all its habitations: but she is overcome, and prevented by a *Herculean Genius*, or power.

"Next that is represented brutish, scoffing *Ignorance*, endeavouring to vilify and condemn what she understands not, which is charmed by a *Mercurial Genius*, with his *Caduceus*."

The colours, however, as well as the canvas of this painting, having been greatly injured by time, the work was cleaned and repaired in the year 1762, by Mr. Kettle, an ingenious portrait painter; at which

time the whole of the interior of this edifice was also decorated with new gilding, painting, and other ornaments, at the expense of 1000*l*; so that it is now universally allowed to be one of the most superb and splendid rooms in Europe. Besides the ceiling, the room is furnished with three full-length portraits of Archbishop Sheldon, the Duke of Ormond, and Sir Christopher Wren. This beautiful structure, which is somewhat in the form of a Roman *D*, was completed from a design of Sir Christopher Wren, in the year 1669, at the expense of Archbishop Sheldon, who having expended 15,000*l*. in the building it, endowed it with 2000*l*. to purchase lands for its perpetual repair.—In the Theatre are celebrated the public acts, and the annual commemoration of benefactors to the University, on the 2nd of July, instituted by the late Lord Crew, bishop of Durham, with some other solemnities.

THE ASHMOLEAN MUSEUM stands westward of the Theatre, and is so called from its founder, Elias Ashmole, Windsor Herald in the reign of Charles II. This munificent patron of learning, in the year 1677, made an offer to bestow upon the University all the rarities he had purchased from the two Tradescants, successively physic gardeners at Lambeth, together with his own collection of coins, manuscripts, &c. on condition that they should build a fabric for their reception. The building was accordingly erected, and finished, in the year 1682, under the direction of Sir Christopher Wren. Its front towards the street is about 60 feet in length; the eastern portico is remarkably well finished in the Corinthian order, adorned with a variety of characteristic embellishments, and its architecture is deservedly reckoned equal to any in the University; though, like many others, it is so much crowded by the neighbouring buildings, that the spectator cannot command a proper view of it. In pursuance of his promise, Ashmole presented to the University a large and valuable collection of natural curiosities,

together with his coins and manuscripts; at his death he likewise bequeathed three gold chains, one of philegrain work, consisting of 60 links, weighing twenty-two ounces, with a medal of the Duke of Brandenburg; the other a collar of SS. with a medal of the late king of Denmark; and the third a chain of equal weight and value, with a medal of the Emperor Joseph; all which he had received as honorary presents on occasion of his book, concerning the order of the garter. The museum, since its first foundation, has been greatly enriched, by several ample and valuable benefactions. The chief natural curiosities are a large collection of bodies, horns, bones, &c. of animals, preserved dry or in spirits; numerous specimens of minerals and metals; shells, especially those of Dr. Martin Lister, mentioned in his *History of the Animals of England*, together with his ores, fossils, &c. many of which are described in the *Philosophical Transactions*, or in the pieces published by that ingenious naturalist. It contains also a small, but chosen collection of exotic plants, sent from the East Indies, by James Pound, M. B. But it has chiefly been indebted to the care and munificence of its two first keepers, Dr. Robert Plot and Mr. Edward Lhywd; the former of which gave all the natural bodies mentioned in his *Histories of the Counties of Stafford and Oxon*: and the latter, the large collections he made in his travels through the greatest part of England, Wales, and Ireland. To these valuable treasures a great addition was made by the Rev. William Borlase, who presented to the University all the specimens of crystals, mundics, coppers, tins, &c. described in his *Natural History of Cornwall*; which present he also accompanied with his manuscript copy of the history, and the original drawings. Amongst the curiosities of nature must be reckoned the large magnet, given to the museum by the Right Honourable the Countess of Westmorland, the lady of a former chancellor. It is of an oval shape, its longer

diameter being 18 inches, its shorter 12, and supports a weight of 145lb. it is inclosed in an elegant case of mahogany, made at his lordship's expense; and may justly be deemed one of the greatest ornaments as well as rarities of this place. This repository likewise contains a good collection of antiquities, such as urns, statues, sacrificial vessels and utensils; it being possessed of most of those described in the *Britannia*, by Bishop Gibson. Here are also many Grecian, Roman, and Saxon coins, the gifts of the founder, and Thomas Braithwaite, Esq. Amongst the works of art, a model of a ship, given by Dr. Clark, and a picture representing our Saviour going to his Crucifixion, made of feathers, deserve particular notice; also a very ancient piece of St. Cuthbert, made by order of King Alfred, and worn, as it is supposed, by that monarch. There are also some good paintings: a dead Christ, the work of Annibal Carracci; several portraits of the Tradescant family, particularly Sir John, the grandfather, drawn after his death; Thomas, Earl of Arundel, and the Duke of Norfolk, his son, by Vandyke; likewise the founder of the museum, in a carved frame of elegant workmanship, and an extraordinary representation of Christ's descent into Hell, by Brugell. The last present to this collection was given by Mr. Reinhold Forster, who went the first voyage round the world, with Captain Cook, consisting of a great variety of the manufactures, habits, warlike instruments, and an idol, which he brought from the island of Otaheite, and New Zealand.

Besides the room in which the curiosities are deposited, there are three small libraries; the first called by the name of Ashmole's Study, containing his printed books and manuscripts, chiefly relating to matters of heraldry and antiquity: in which also are the manuscripts of Sir William Dugdale, author of the *Monasticon*, &c. The second is that of Dr. Lister, consisting of printed books in physic, and the best editions of the classics, in which are also

preserved the copper plates, belonging to the History of Shells, published by that author. The last is that of Anthony Wood, containing the valuable manuscript collections of that learned and laborious antiquarian. In the room on the first floor, lectures are read in experimental philosophy, under which is an elaboratory for courses of chemistry and anatomy. The care and direction of the Museum is vested in six visitors, viz. the Vice Chancellor, the Dean of Christ Church, the Principals of Brazenose, the King's Professor of Physic, and the two Proctors for the time being. These have the nomination of the head keeper, and meet annually on Trinity Monday to inspect the state of the collection, and to pass the accounts.

THE CLARENDON PRINTING-HOUSE, which is almost contiguous to the Theatre, is a magnificent structure, consisting of two stories, and being 115 feet in length. The street front has a noble Doric portico, whose columns equal the height of the first story; the back front is adorned with three quarter columns of the same dimensions, and a statue of the Earl of Clarendon. On the top of the building are statues of the Nine Muses. At the entrance from the schools, on the right hand, are two rooms, where bibles and books of common prayer are printed; over which are large and elegant apartments. The left side consists of rooms for the University Press; together with one well-executed apartment (adorned with an excellent portrait of queen Anne, by Kneller) appointed for the meetings of the heads of houses and delegates. This edifice was built in the year 1171, by the profits arising from the sale of Lord Clarendon's History of the Rebellion, the copy of which had been presented to the University, by his son.

The city of Oxford is situated 54 miles from London, and contains, according to the late returns, 1992 houses, inhabited by 12,934 persons, and is magnificently lighted with gas lamps.

By way of recapitulating the varieties of Oxford,

it may be necessary to observe, that about six days, appropriated to a walk on each day, are required to visit the different parts of Oxford and its environs. The First Day's walk will suffice to visit the colleges of Lincoln, Jesus, Exeter, Brazen-nose, and All Souls. Proceeding from Carfax along High-street, and turning up the first opening on the left hand, we perceive the church of All Saints. Lincoln College has lately had its attractive front this way laid open to the street. This is reckoned among the greatest modern improvements. Retracing our steps through both courts, the front of Jesus College stretches in a long line on the western side of the street, contributing, with the opposite College of Exeter and the Chapel of Trinity in the distance, to form a very pleasing perspective. From the gate of Jesus the best exterior view of Exeter college is obtained, extending to the length of 220 feet, lighted by ranges of uniform windows. The hall is a fine embattled structure, on the southern side of the quadrangle. Coming out and turning round the south-west angle, we proceed along Brazen-nose-lane into Radcliffe-square. Of the view presented here, Lord Orford remarks "such a vision of large edifices, unbroken by private houses, suggest such ideas as the mind is apt to entertain of ancient cities which exist no longer." On the north side of this magnificent square are the public schools, and on the west, the beautiful College of All Souls; the southern side is formed by St. Mary's, the pride of Oxford churches, and the western front is bounded by the venerable front of Brazen-nose. In the centre of the square Dr. Radcliffe's library rears its classic dome. Opposite, as we repass the gate of Brazen-nose, the last object of the first day's walk, is the college of All Souls. Speaking of the grand quadrangle here, Lord Orford allows that its architect has produced a picturesque grandeur, not devoid of sublimity. It is the eastern side of the court whence arise those sister towers, that are justly the pride of

Oxford. From what point of vicinage soever Oxford is contemplated, these spiry structures enrich the prospect, but to the stranger who wishes to enjoy at once a near and picturesque view of them, that which presents itself from a gateway leading from New College-lane to St. Peter's in the East, is particularly recommended.

The Second Day's walk may be directed to the Colleges of Worcester, St. John's, Baliol, Trinity, Wadham, and Magdalene.

Proceeding down to the corn-market, we leave on the right the venerable tower of St. Michael's, and from George-lane a little beyond, turn up Worcester-lane that soon brings us to Worcester College, the principal buildings of which are of recent date. At present, only the eastern and northern sides are finished, the southern being still formed by part of the old buildings of Gloucester Hall. Gardens hang on a charming slope towards the Isis. Leaving Worcester College and skirting along the northern side of Gloucester-green, a narrow lane leads to the charmingly retired street of St. Giles, on the eastern side of which stands St. John's College. The front of Baliol College, the next object, occupies a considerable portion of the northern side of Canditch. Both extremities of the front are modern. Immediately adjoining, on the west of Baliol, is Trinity College, divided from the street by a neat iron pallisade, and having an area ornamentally disposed into a grass plot and shrubberies. Leaving Trinity by the front avenue, and proceeding eastward, we pass Kettel Hall. Beyond, on the right, are the Ashmolean Museum, the Theatre, and the Clarendon Printing-office; opposite to the latter, a street diverging to the north, leads to Wadham College, the front of which, a little retiring from the street, ranges along the eastern side of the way. The front is of a simple but very pleasing character.

Passing along Holywell and down the Long walk to the south-eastern extremity of High-street, we

come to Magdalene College, one of the most extensive and most opulent foundations in the University; it is entered from the city by a modern gateway of the Doric order. On the east a noble gateway, tower, and the venerable western front of the chapel, present themselves; and on the south, a low embattled range of building is occupied as chambers. The pleasure grounds belonging to Magdalene College constitute one of its most agreeable appendages.

The Third Day's walk is laid out to visit Hertford, Oriel, University, Queen's, and New College. We first direct our steps along High-street, and turn to the left just beyond St. Mary's church, and by walking in a northerly direction arrives at Hertford College. Returning into High-street, and proceeding down a lane on the opposite side of the way, at the bottom of this lane stands Oriel College, the chief front of which looking to the west, is a regular and very pleasing elevation, lighted by ancient windows, and surmounted by a double battlement. Its principal feature is a handsome square tower, rising over the gateway, which is ornamented by a neat bay or Oriel window.

Regaining the High-street and proceeding in an easterly direction along its southern side, we come to University College. It is a regular elevation of three stories, embattled in the ogee manner, and lighted by uniform ranges of windows. Immediately on recrossing the front of University College, an excellent view is obtained of Queen's College, which, arrayed in all the splendor of classic architecture, expands its front to the extent of 220 feet on the northern side of High street. Departing from Queen's College through Edmund Hall lane, after turning to the left into Queen's College lane, a picturesque view of the towers and pinnacles of All Souls is soon obtained. An abrupt turning to the right leads through an old gateway with a pointed arch, into New College lane, the eastern extremity of which is closed by New College, but which, viewed from

this point, makes an appearance but little indicative of its actual extent and grandeur.

In the Fourth Day's walk the four remaining colleges of Pembroke, Merton, Corpus Christi, and Christ Church, may be viewed. About a hundred yards south of Carfax, a short and very retired street verging westward from St. Aldate's, leads to Pembroke College. The exterior of this, though quite plain, has a peculiarly neat and clean appearance; a plain gateway opening beneath a low tower, leads into the quadrangle, which is of a very limited extent, but surrounded by good and uniform buildings.

From Bear-lane, proceeding to King's-street, on the southern side of the latter, we perceive Merton College, the front of which is ennobled by the southern face of the Chapel, one of the most august edifices within the limits of the University. This chapel is also the parochial church of St. John the Baptist. The best station for viewing it is at the foot of Magpie-lane, when we have immediately in front the northern end of the transept, enriched with pinnacles, niches, and displaying a window of more than ordinary magnitude.

Immediately adjoining, on the west to Merton Grove, stands Corpus Christi College, which also viewed from the south-western corner of Magpie-lane, possesses considerable beauty. Towards King-street it presents a regular embattled elevation of three stories, and a square embattled tower, &c. Turning towards the west, on leaving Corpus Christi College, the majestic eastern portal, the most frequented entrance to the College of Christ Church presents itself. This is one of the most splendid foundations of the kind in Europe, the present buildings of which were erected between the years 1773 and 1783, after a plan furnished by the late Mr. Wyatt. Adverting to the Halls, having finished the tour of the Colleges, we find adjoining, on the east of Merton College, is St. Alban Hall. On the western side of Magdalene College is St. Mary Magdalene Hall, almost hidden by a row of majestic elms.

Opposite to the eastern side of Queen's College, stands St. Edmund's Hall, having an arched gateway and windows of ancient form. The hoary tower and mouldering walls of the ancient church of St. Peter in the East, partly concealed by the dark foliage of a spreading yew tree, rise in venerable dignity and bound the prospect in front. North of Oriel College stands St. Mary's Hall, another academical establishment. The buildings are disposed in the usual quadrangular form. New Inn Hall was established in a lane that derived its name from the establishment, though formerly this lane was called "The Seven Deadly Sins." This Hall has for some years been completely disused. One of the late principals was the celebrated Blackstone.

The Fifth Day's walk may be to the Public Schools, within the limits of which is comprehended the Bodleian, or University Library, the front of which stretches along the western side of Cat-street, opposite to Hertford College, Radcliffe Library, Clarendon Printing-house, the Ashmolean Museum, the Physic Garden, which besides the more immediate environs of Oxford, present various objects of curiosity and interest to engage an additional day. From an eminence near *Ferry Hincksey*, a village one mile west of the city, Oxford is seen to great advantage, rising like the queen of the vale from the bosom of a thick grove. Binsey, Godstowe, Witham, and Iffley, are still in some degree famous, in consequence of circumstances connected with their history.

A Drive formed round Nuneham Park, five miles from Oxford, affords many fine views; by the side of one part of it may be seen the celebrated conduit from Quatrevoies in Oxford.

Journey from Oxford to Caversham, through Henley.

On leaving Oxford, and proceeding in a southerly direction, at the distance of about two miles from the city, and a little to the right of our road, is the village of IFFLEY, which is situated on the banks of the Thames. Here is a very ancient church of Nor-

man architecture, the west door of which is richly ornamented, as is also the south, which is blocked up by a porch, and within the church are several fine circular arches.

Near to Ifley is the island of OSENEY, formed by the river Isis, where a priory for black canons was founded by Robert de Oilge, at the instigation of Editha his wife, in the reign of Henry I. It was afterwards erected into an abbey; and in the year 1542, it was converted into a cathedral by Henry VIII. with a dean and six prebendaries, who were to form a chapter for the Bishop of Oxford, whose palace was at Gloucester Hall. In about four years the see was removed to Christ Church by the king, and the abbot, who was bishop of Oseney, was likewise made bishop of Oxford. Part of the stately walls of this abbey are still to be seen converted into the out-houses of a water-mill standing on its site.

About one mile to the east of Ifley, on the left of our road, is the village of COWLEY, where was formerly a preceptory belonging to the Templars.

At the distance of one mile and a half from Cowley, we pass through the village of SANDFORD, situated 51 miles from London.

About two miles to the southward of Sandford, is the pleasant village of NUNEHAM COURTNEY, consisting of one street, or rather two rows of houses, having a garden between and in front of each, a little distance from the road, and a row of trees in front: the whole was erected in the year 1764, and contains 55 houses.

Near this village is the elegant seat of the Earl of Harcourt, who is lord of this manor, which at the general survey belonged to Richard de Curcy; afterwards to the family of Riparys, or Redvers. Mary, youngest daughter of William de Redvers, Earl of Devon (who as well as his uncle William, was surnamed de Vernon), married Robert de Courtney, baron of Oakhampton, in the year 1214. It is probable that by this marriage the manor of Nuneham passed into the family of Courtney, and thence as-

sumed the name of Nuneham Courtney; and after being in the possession of several families, became the property of the Earl of Wemys, from whom it was purchased in the year 1710, by Simon, first Earl of Harcourt, lord high chancellor of England.

The present edifice was built by the late earl, but has since been much altered and enlarged (by the addition of a court of offices, &c.) according to the plans of Mr. Brown. It stands in a park of six miles and a half in circumference, well wooded, and containing near 1200 acres, in which, "are scenes," says Mr. Walpole, "worthy of the bold pencil of Rubens, or to be subjects for the tranquil sunshines of Claude Lorrain." The elegant mansion of Nuneham Courtney, is situated on the slope of a hill, and the front placed towards the ascent. From this circumstance of situation all striking beauty of approach is forbidden; but groupes of spreading elms are united to the building by side skreens of shrubbery, and impart a powerful effect of contrast to the extensive views commanded by the back front of the edifice. The front is a handsome stone elevation, with projecting wings, joined to the body of the structure by inflected corridors. The vestibule is small, but ornamented by some good casts of statues. The park contains nearly twelve hundred acres. The entrance to the house is through a vestibule, which is ornamented with Doric columns, and casts of antique statues, from whence is an ascent, by an oval geometrical staircase, to the Saloon, which is 30 feet by 16, and $18\frac{1}{2}$ in height: it is hung with blue damask. The Anti-room is 24 feet by 15, and the same height with the saloon. The Library is 32 feet 4 inches, by 14 feet 4 inches high. The Eating-room is 33 feet by 24, and 18 and a half high. The octagon Drawing-room is 30 feet by 24, and the same height with the last-mentioned room. The great Drawing-room is 49 feet by 24, and the same height with the former. The ceiling of this room was designed by Stuart, and the chimney-piece by Paul Sandby; it is hung with crimson damask. The

State Bed-chamber, which is hung with crimson velvet, is 32 feet 4 inches, by 20 feet 6 inches. The whole of these rooms, together with the dressing-rooms, are most elegantly furnished, and adorned with a superb collection of portraits and paintings by the most eminent masters.

The Flower Garden contains only about an acre and a quarter; but, from the irregularity of its form, the inequality of the ground, and the disposition of the trees, it appears of considerable extent. The boundary is concealed by a deep plantation of shrubs, which unites with the surrounding forest-trees that stand in the park. The garden is laid out in patches of flowers, and clumps of shrubs, of unequal dimensions and various shapes, and a gravel walk leads round it to different buildings and busts, on all of which are inscriptions. In a wild and retired part of the walk (with a high shrubbery on either side of it), which leads through detached trees to the grotto, are busts of Cato of Utica, and of Jean Jacques Rousseau, with the following inscriptions :

CATO.

“ A ce nom saint et auguste, tout ami de la vertu
Doit mettre le front dans la poussiere, et honorer
En silence la memoire du plus grand des hommes.”

J. J. Rousseau.

ROUSSEAU.

“ Say is thy honest Heart to Virtue warm?
Can genius animate thy feeling breast?
Approach, behold this venerable form,
’Tis Rousseau ; let thy bosom speak the rest.”

Bk. Boothby, Esq.

The Grotto is composed of rough stones, intermixed with spars and petrifications, to imitate a natural cavern, and the front partially concealed by ivy, and a variety of rock plants. In one corner of the grotto, on a piece of white marble of an irregular form, are inscribed some verses from the *Comus* of Milton.

The Temple of Flora. 'The design of this building is taken from a Doric portico at Athens. In the centre of the back wall is a medallion of Flora, from the antique in white marble; also busts of Faunus, Pan, Venus, and Apollo, with suitable inscriptions.

The Bower is a square building 12 feet by 10, the ceiling is coved; and the whole painted green; the front is covered with a treillage of the same colour, against which are planted roses, woodbines, jessamines, and several kinds of creepers, and appears like three arches cut through the shrubbery; within is a cast of Cupid and Psyche, from the antique, and on a tablet, above the centre arch, are inscribed the following verses:

"Fair Quiet, have I found thee here,
With Innocence, thy sister dear?
Mistaken long, I sought thee then
In busy companies of men;
Your sacred plants, at length I know,
Will only in retirement grow.
Society is all but rude
'To this delicious solitude,
Where all the flowers and trees do close
To weave the garland of repose."

And. Marvell.

BUST OF PRIOR.

"See, friend, in some few fleeting hours,
See yonder what a change is made;
Ah me! the blooming pride of May
And that of beauty are but one;
At morn both flourish bright and gay,
Both fade at evening pale and gone."

On an altar, encircled with cypresses, which stands within a recess in the shrubbery that surrounds the garden, is placed *the Urn*. The bank that rises behind is planted with flowers, and a weeping willow; large Weymouth pines, and other evergreens, form the back-ground. The following inscription is on the altar:

“ Sacred to the memory of FRANCES POOLE,
Viscountess Palmerston.

Here shall our ling’ring footsteps oft be found,
This is her shrine, and consecrates the ground.
Here living sweets around her altar rise,
And breathe perpetual incense to the skies.

Here, too, the thoughtless, and the young may
tread,

Who shun the drearier mansions of the dead.
May here be taught what worth the world has known,
Her wit, her sense, her virtues, were her own ;
To her peculiar—and for ever lost
‘To those who knew, and therefore lov’d her most.

Oh ! if kind pity steal on Virtue’s eye,
Check not the tear, nor stop the useful sigh ;
From soft humanity’s ingenuous flame,
A wish may rise to emulate her fame,
And some faint image of her worth restore
When those who now lament her, are no more.

George Simon Harcourt and the Honourable Elizabeth Vernon, Viscount and Viscountess Newnham, erected this urn in the year 1771.”

W. Whitehead, Esq. poet laureat, wrote the verses.

The Conservatory is 50 feet by 16, and is planted with bergamot, cedrai, limoncelli, and orange-trees of various kinds and sizes. In summer the front, sides, and roof of the building are entirely removed, and the trees appear to stand in the natural ground ; the back wall is covered with a treillage, against which are planted lemon, citron, and pomegranate-trees, intermixed with all the different sorts of jessamines.

The statue of Hebe terminates the principal glade, and fronts the temple of Flora ; it is backed by a large clump of shrubs, which forms a collection of all such evergreens as flourish in the open air. On the pedestal of the statue are the following verses.

“ Hebe, from thy cup divine,
Shed, O shed ! nectarious dew.
Here o’er Nature’s living shrine,
The immortal drops diffuse ;

Here while every bloom's display'd,
Shining fair in vernal pride,
Catch the colours ere they fade
And check the green blood's ebbing tide,
Till youth eternal like thine own prevail,
Safe from the night's damp wing or day's insidious
gale."

IV. Whitehead, Esq.

The church is a beautiful building of the Ionic order, in the style of an antique temple; it was erected in the year 1764, at the sole expense of Simon Earl of Harcourt, who gave the original design, which afterwards received a small alteration from Mr. Stuart. The principal portico, which consists of six columns, supporting a plain pediment, has no communication with the church, but serves for a seat in the garden; the public entrance is on the opposite side, and that to the family closet through a semicircular portico at the west end. The inside, which is extremely neat, was furnished and decorated by the present earl. The altar-piece, which was designed and executed by Mr. Mason, represents the parable of the good Samaritan.—The piece of tapestry at the west end is a representation of the twelve tribes of Israel at the passover.

About three miles from Nuneham-Courtney is DORCHESTER, a place of great antiquity, and formerly a market-town. It is situated on the banks of the Thames, over which river is a handsome bridge of stone, completed in 1815, near its confluence with the Isis. It was anciently a Roman station (supposed to be the *Civitas Dorcinia* of the Romans), and afterwards the see of a bishop, founded by Birinus, the apostle of the West Saxons, in the year 636, after he had baptised their king Cinigils. This bishopric continued till the Norman Conquest, when it was removed by Bishop Remigius to Lincoln.

Besides the cathedral, there were formerly three parish churches, and an abbey of Augustine canons, founded by Birinus, in the year 635. The present

and only church, anciently attached to the abbey, is a large and venerable structure, with a low tower: two of the windows have some curious paintings on glass, the stone medallions of one represent the genealogy of the line of Jesse. The founder's monument stands on the south side of the altar; and the church is ornamented with a very antique leaden font, on which are 12 very curious figures. Since the removal of the see this town has gradually gone to decay; and at present contains only 150 houses, and 754 inhabitants. It has an annual fair on Easter Tuesday, and is situated 52 miles from London. A little to the south of Dorchester, at a place called Dike Hills, the remains of an ancient Roman fortification are still visible.

Dorchester Bridge was opened for carriages in July, 1815, which being the signal for removing the old one, scarcely any part of this remained in the December following.

Proceeding in a south-easterly direction, at the distance of about two miles and a half from Dorchester, we pass through the village of SHILLINGFORD, at which place is a bridge across the Thames into Berkshire; one mile beyond which is the village of BENSINGTON, once a royal town, taken from the Britons by Ceaulin, king of the West Saxons, in the year 572; it was afterwards united to the kingdom of Mercia, by Offa, who had a palace at EWELM, about a mile to the east, which Camden speaks of, as decaying with age. It belonged to the Chaucers, from whom by marriage it came to the De la Poles. Here was an hospital founded by William de la Pole, Duke of Suffolk, in the reign of Henry VI. whose duchess lies buried in the church. This Hospital is called *God's House*, and still exists: the mastership of which is given to the regius profesor of Divinity at Oxford. This township, which is situated 46 miles from London, contains 193 houses, and 811 inhabitants.

The ridged way between Alcester and Wallingford, crosses the Thames here, on the west side of

the church. Another earth-work, called by the inhabitants *Medler's Bank*, is supposed to have been thrown up during the Civil Wars. Some few years since, an urn full of Roman coins was found here.

Two miles south from Bensington, at Crowmarsh, there is a bridge over the Thames to Wallingford; about a mile from which is Monge-well House, the seat of the Bishop of Durham.

At TUFFIELD, a village about four miles and a half from Bensington, and on the right of our road, was formerly a house of Trinitarian friars, founded before the 33rd year of king Edward III.

About two miles from the last-mentioned place, is the village of NETTLEBED, noted for a singular spring, said never to fail in the driest summer. It is situated 40 miles from London, and contains 99 houses, and 501 inhabitants.

At the distance of about five miles from the last-mentioned place, is the town of HENLEY, pleasantly situated on the west side of the river Thames. This town is supposed to be the most ancient in the county, from its name being derived from the British word, *Hen and Ley*, signifying *Old Place*. It was formerly part of the estate of the barons of Hungerford. It is now a corporate town, governed by a high steward, recorder, mayor, 10 aldermen, and 16 burgesses. It was formerly a borough, and sent two members to parliament. It has of late years undergone very considerable improvements; the buildings, in general, having been modernized, and the streets widened, paved, and lighted, so that few traces of its antiquity are now to be seen; Roman coins have, however, frequently been found near its market-place.

The Church is an ancient spacious building, having a handsome lofty tower, said to have been erected by Cardinal Wolsey, with a peal of eight bells. Here are two Free Schools; and Alms-houses for 20 poor persons, beside considerable other charitable benefactions. The principal trade is in

corn, flour, malt, and beech-wood; and in its neighbourhood is produced pyrites, and a black flint, used in the glass-houses. The market, which is on Thursday, is always plentifully supplied with malt and grain, large quantites of which are sent by the Thames to London. It is situated 35 miles from London; and contains, according to the late returns, 522 houses, and 3117 inhabitants.

Henley is entered from London over a handsome stone bridge of five arches, finished in 1786. The key-stone on each face of the centre arch is adorned with a sculptured mask by the Hon. Mrs. Damer. One represents Thame, and that on the reverse, Isis, with fish playing in the wavy honours of his lower face, and bulrushes inserted in the fillet which binds his temples. The meanders of the Thames abound with picturesque grace. On the Oxfordshire side a rich spread of meadow, ornamented with the noble mansions of Fawly, forms the fore-ground to a soft and lovely range of woody hills. The Berkshire margin rises boldly to a loftiness of elevation which nature and art have united to adorn.

On leaving Henley, we proceed in a southerly direction, and at the distance of two miles and a half, pass through the village of SHIPLAKE, which contains 101 houses, and 476 inhabitants, and is situated 33 miles from London.

Three miles beyond Shiplake, on the right of our road, is CAVERSHAM PARK, the seat of Major Charles Marsac; about one mile beyond which is the parish of CAVERSHAM, pleasantly situated on the banks of the Thames, and adorned with several elegant mansions, parks, and gardens. At this place was formerly a priory of Black Canons, and king Charles I. was detained a prisoner here. It is situated 39 miles from London.

Journey from Banbury to Radcott Bridge; through Chipping Norton and Burford.

About two miles to the south-west of Banbury (which we have already described), and one to the

right of our road, is the small village of BROUGHTON, where is an ancient castle built on a delightful spot, and which is the occasional residence of the Lord Say and Sele.

Proceeding southward, at the distance of three miles from Banbury, we pass through the village of BLOXHAM, situated 72 miles from London, and about three miles from which is the village of SOUTH NEWINGTON, and about two miles and a half beyond, on the right of our road, is the village of SWARFORD, situated 71 miles from London,

Five miles from Swarford is CHIPPING NORTON, a large, regular, and well-built borough town, with a market on Wednesday, and seven annual fairs. Its name is supposed to be derived from *Cheapen*, a Saxon word, signifying a market or place of trade, as all the places appear to have been in the time of the Saxons which have the name of Chipping attached to them.

The Church, which is situated in the lower part of the town, is a noble structure, in the Gothic taste, 98 feet long, by 87 feet wide: the middle aisle, which is 46 feet high, is much admired for its light and curious workmanship in the windows. The church contains a number of brass monuments, of the 14th century, to the memory of divers merchants of the town, which shews it to have been formerly a place of great trade. The tower is lofty, with a peal of six musical bells. Near the church are some remains of a castle, and Roman coins are frequently found here. Chipping Norton sent burgesses to parliament once in the reign of Edward I. and twice in that of Edward III. but never since. The town is governed by two bailiffs and 12 burgesses, who are empowered by charter from James I. to hold a court, and determine actions under 4l. It has a Free Grammar School, founded by Edward VI. and on Chapel Heath, near the town, are annual horse-races. It is situated about 74 miles

from London, and contains 373 houses, and 1975 inhabitants. Its principal manufacture is woollen cloths for waggon tilts.

Four miles to the south of Chipping Norton, on the left of our road, is the hamlet of CHADLINGTON, which is ornamented with two respectable mansions, and gives name to a hundred in this county.

Returning to the turnpike-road, at the distance of about seven miles from Chipping Norton, is the village of SHIPTON, about four miles from which is the town of

BURFORD, situated at the western extremity of this county. It had formerly a considerable manufactory for rugs and duffels, as well as saddles. Here is a free Grammar School, over which is the Town Hall, wherein the assizes for the county of Oxford were held in the year 1636. The church is a large handsome structure, with a fine spire: there is also a meeting-house for Quakers, and two for other classes of dissenters. This town formerly sent a member to parliament; it had likewise a charter from Henry II. granting it all the customs of the townsmen of Oxford; and though it has lost most of them, it still retains the appearance of a corporation, having a common seal, and being governed by two bailiffs, and 12 burgesses, two constables, four tithingmen, &c.

At this place a synod was convened in the year 685, against the error of the British churches, in the observance of Easter; and at Battle edge, near this town, Cuthred, king of the West Saxons, beat Ethelbald, king of the Mercians, in a pitched battle, and the inhabitants formerly celebrated annually on Midsummer-eve a kind of festival, which they say commenced in honour of this battle.

This town is situated in a fine corn country, and a market is held here every Saturday. There are also two chartered fairs, on the 5th of July and 25th of September.

Burford is 73 miles from London, and contains,

according to the late returns, 231 houses, and 1942 inhabitants.

Proceeding southerly, we pass through a detached part of Berkshire of about one mile in extent, and at the distance of about seven miles from Burford, reach the village of CLANFIELD, situated 68 miles from London, two miles to the left of which is

BAMPTON, a market-town, pleasantly situated on a small stream that runs into the Isis, a little below the town. It is said by some writers to have been a place of some importance before the Conquest; but at present there is scarcely a building in the town that merits particular notice, except the church and the remains of an ancient castle; the former of which is a very spacious lofty edifice, with a large spire, and a peal of six fine bells. It had formerly a great trade for leather jackets, gloves, and breeches; and its market on Wednesdays was noted for fellmongers' ware. Little business is now transacted here. This town is situated 70 miles from London.

Returning from our digression, at the distance of about one mile and a half from Clanfield, and three miles from Bampton, is the hamlet of Radcot, situated near the Isis, over which is a bridge to Farringdon in Berkshire, from which it is distant two miles and a half.

*Journey from Little Rollwright to Stoken Church
through Woodstock and Oxford.*

Little Rollwright is a hamlet belonging to GREAT ROLLWRIGHT, a village situated about one mile and a half from the former. Near this village is that ancient monument called Rollrich Stones; they stand upright in a circle, being from five to seven feet high, and are supposed to be the vestiges of a druidical temple.

About two miles to the north-east of Great Rollwright is the village of HOOK NORTON, said to have been anciently a royal seat of the Saxon kings, though there are not at present the least remains of antiquity to justify such an assertion. The village,

which is situated 74 miles from London, contains 288 houses, and 1229 inhabitants. It is remarkable for a bloody battle, fought here between the Danes and the Saxons in the year 914, in which the latter were defeated, and there are in its neighbourhood several barrows, or sepulchral monuments.

Returning to the turnpike road, at the distance of about five miles from Rollwright, on the left is **HEYTHORP**, the seat of the Right Honourable the Earl of Shrewsbury. It is situated on a small eminence, in a delightful part of the county, and possesses every charm that can result from a diversity of wood, water, eminence, and vales. An avenue of above two miles, planted on each side with forest-trees of advanced growth, and beautiful umbrage, interspersed with clumps of fir, leads from the north to the grand area before the house, and by its length and variety, forms an exceeding magnificent approach. The house is a regular edifice, consisting of four fronts, built in the most elegant style of architecture, and joined to the offices by open arcades. The entrance to the house is by a flight of steps, under a grand portico, supported by four lofty Corinthian columns. The hall is a well-proportioned room, 32 feet, by 27 feet 9 inches; it is finished in plain stucco, and adorned with vases and lamps, upon highly-finished brackets. On the first entrance the eye is agreeably surprised by the reflection of the avenue and part of the hall, from two large silvered sashes, on each side the door, leading to the saloon, which, by a pleasing deception, not only repeats the beautiful landscape, but raises the idea of another room of equal dimensions.

The Library is a most superb and magnificent room, 83 feet in length, and 20 in height. The ornaments of this room consist chiefly of the most elegant and highly-finished stucco, executed in a masterly manner, by the late and present Mr. Roberts; the designs of which are admirably adapted to the purposes of the place. On the north side are seven re-

cesses, one of which is the entrance from the hall, and the other six are designed for bookcases, and are ornamented with curious medallions of Cicero, Plato, Thucydides, Homer, Shakspeare, and Inigo Jones; in this side are also two superb chimney-pieces, by Carter, composed of the statuary and rich verd antique marble. The entrances at each end are formed to correspond with the other recesses; the semicircular arches over which, as well as that leading from the hall, are ornamented in stucco with fables from Æsop, admirably executed, and a medallion of the same kind over each chimney. The south side, which fronts the garden, consists of eight magnificent windows, with a pair of folding glass doors, which open to the terrace, and afford a most delightful and extensive prospect. The ceiling, which is entirely plain, is supported by columns of the Corinthian order, and is encompassed by an exceeding rich Ionic entablature. This room is likewise enriched by pendant ornaments, in alto-relievo, of still life, military, musical, and mathematical instruments; with a judicious mixture of fruit and flowers.

The drawing-room is 47 feet in length, by 25 in breadth, and 20 in height. It is furnished with most exquisite tapestry, representing the four quarters of the world, well expressed by assemblages of the natives, in their various habits and employments, except Europe, which is in masquerade; this tapestry is the work of Vanderborght. Over the four doors are the Seasons and Elements, painted in a very peculiar style, these figures, in *claro obscuro*, are of inestimable value, and appear as if starting from the canvass. From the vast expression, yet exceeding light tint, of these pieces, the spectator is at first sight ready to pronounce them *bas-reliefs*, in white marble. The chimney-piece is extremely superb, composed of rich Egyptian, and statuary marble, executed by Carter. The cornice is supported by highly carved and polished figures, of

Ceres and Flora, about five feet high: the drapery of these figures, one in the ancient the other in the modern style, as well as their attitudes, are peculiarly striking and expressive. In the centre of the frieze is a raised tablet of the Choice of Hercules. Over the chimney-piece is a painting by Cornelius Van Orley, of the destruction of Pharaoh and his host in the Red Sea. The ceiling consists of representations of the four quarters of the world; with the Elements and Seasons in stucco, interspersed with tablets and other decorations, and surrounded by a full enriched Corinthian entablature. On the opposite side to the chimney-pieces are two superb glasses, of one plate each, upwards of four feet in breadth, and nine feet high; under these glasses are two rich tables of Egyptian marble upon gilt and carved frames, and on the other piers are two girandoles, of exquisite workmanship, by Ansell. The proportion, decorations, and furniture of this apartment render it one of the most elegant rooms in this county. The settees and chairs are richly carved and gilt, the seats of which are covered with needle-work, in silk, representing bunches of flowers: here are also two curious fire-screens, by the same hand as the tapestry; one exhibits a Dutch meriment, the other Sportsmen returned from shooting, with their game.

The gardens belonging to this noble mansion are laid out with great judgment, and exhibit a variety of beautiful scenes, which strike the spectator in a most agreeable succession. To the south-west lofty trees, afford a most refreshing shade, interspersed with openings edged with flowers. Eastward a small stream is improved into a winding river, broken by cascades, and whose banks are adorned with seats, and a curious fancy building, called the Moss-house; this edifice is covered with reeds, and constructed of rustic oak; the inside is lined with moss of various colours, and the floor is paved in mosaic work, with horses' teeth polished. Upon entering this building,

there is a striking view of two cascades, which afford an agreeable surprise. This piece of water is crossed by a stone bridge, under which is an engine, which supplies the house with water; and above it, at the distance of 400 paces, is the most natural, if not the most striking of the cascades found here; it is built with petrifications and other curious stones; and upon the top is a terrace, planted on each side with flowering shrubs. From this bridge, in another direction, through a pleasant grove, is an ascent to a beautiful serpentine walk, also planted with flowering shrubs on each side, that terminates in an octangular bowling-green, from whence are eight extensive, different, and most delightful prospects. It is to be regretted that these fine gardens have lately experienced considerable neglect.

A short distance to the south-east of Heythorp, is the village of **CHURCH EMSTONE**, situated 69 miles from London.

About three miles from hence is the village of **KIDDINGTON**, situated on the Glyme river, which divides the parish into two parts, viz. Over and Nether Kiddington, in the latter of which stands the Church. The chancel is in the Norman or Saxon style, with a zig-zag arch behind the altar, that opened into the chancel of the old chapel, built by the family of the Salceys, about the time of King Stephen. The south door has a spacious porch, in which is an ancient monument of Walter Goodere. This parish was given by King Offa, in the year 780, to Worcester Priory. In the garden of the manor-house is an antique font, brought from Edward the Confessor's chapel at Islip, and said to be that wherein he received baptism. In Hillwood, near this place, is a Roman encampment, in extraordinary preservation; and in that division of the parish called the Upper Town, are the ruins of the old parochial cross, containing part of the shaft and base, built of stone.

STEEPLE BARTON, a village about two miles to

the north-east, has been occupied by the Romans, Mosaic pavements having been discovered in digging to plant trees.

Half a mile to the south-east of Kiddington is Glympton Park, the seat of Mrs. Wheate. About two miles from which, on the right of our road, is

DITCHLEY, the seat of the Right Honourable the Earl of Litchfield. It is built of hewn stone, and has a beautiful southern front, with two correspondent wings, commanding a most agreeable and extensive prospect, in which the magnificent palace of Blenheim has the principal effect.

In the centre of the front is the Hall, finely proportioned and elegantly decorated. Its sides and roof are ornamented with stucco, which is at once bold and delicate. Its door-cases, pediments, entablatures, and columns, of the Corinthian and composite order, are richly ornamented with gilding, &c. The ceiling contains an assembly of the gods, painted by Kent. Two of the compartments are filled with historical pieces from the *Æneid*, by the same hand, one of which represents *Æneas* meeting *Venus*, his mother, in the wood near Carthage, and the other *Venus* presenting *Æneas* with the new armour. The Sciences are introduced as ornaments, with busts of philosophers, poets, historians, and orators, viz. *Socrates*, *Virgil*, *Homer*, *Cicero*, *Sappho*, *Shakspeare*, *Dryden*, *Milton*, and *Livy*. Over the statues are bas-reliefs, copied from antiques out of the Florentine Museum, properly disposed, and a statue of the *Venus de Medici*. In this room is likewise a curious model of the Radclivian Library at Oxford. The chimney-piece is superb and lofty, and decorated with a portrait of the old lord, by Akerman.

The Dining-room is furnished with much elegance. Here is a capital full-length portrait of *Henry VIII.* supposed by *Hans Holbein*, executed with a strength and freedom not generally found in the performances of that high finisher. Also *Sir Harry Lee*,

with the mastiff which saved his life, by Johnson. The story of this piece is founded on a miraculous escape of Sir Harry, from being assassinated by one of his own servants, who had formed a design of robbing the house after he had murdered his master; but providentially, on the night this project was intended to be put in execution, the mastiff, though no favourite with, nor even before taken notice of by his master, accompanied him up stairs, crept under the bed, and could not be driven away by the servant; when at length Sir Harry ordered him to be left, and in the dead of night, the same servant entering the room to execute his design, was instantly seized by the dog, and upon being secured confessed his intentions.

In one corner of the piece are the following lines :

“ More faithful than favoured.

Reason in man cannot effect such love,

As nature doth in them that reason want;

Ulysses true and kind his dog did prove,

When faith in better friends was very scant.

My travels for my friends have been as true,

Though not as far as fortune did him bear,

No friends my love and faith divided knew,

Though neither this nor that once equal'd were:

But in my dog, whereof I made no store,

I find more love than them I trusted more.”

The drawing-room is adorned with tapestry.— The subjects are the Muses and Apollo singing, and playing on their several instruments, Bacchanalian scenes and a vintage. The windows of this apartment open to the most agreeable landscape, which does not perplex the eye by the distance and multiplicity of its objects, but affords those gentle charms which arise from a single, distinct, and confined prospect. It principally consists of a winding valley, with a serpentine canal, covered with an elegant Chinese bridge. The whole is bounded by an easy spreading acclivity, interspersed with groups of trees. The roof of the saloon is stuccoed

in a rich though chaste style; in the middle compartment is Flora with the Zephyrs. The walls are also stuccoed and painted of an olive colour, on which are Minerva and Diana, whole-length bas-reliefs, in the antique style. Here is an excellent antique of the Goddess of Health, about 40 inches in height, purchased from Dr. Mead's collection. On its pedestal is a bas-relief of the head of Esculapius, cut with extraordinary boldness. Here is also shewn an antique medallion of the Sailing Cupid; the diameter of which is about 12 inches.

The Chinese Drawing-room is an apartment curiously ornamented in the Chinese taste. Here are two striking pieces of tapestry; one of which represents the Cyclops forging the armour of Æneas; the other Neptune, with his proper attendants, giving directions about refitting a vessel, which has just been shipwrecked. Over the chimney-piece, which is finely finished in white marble, is a capital picture of the duke and duchess of York, and the princesses Mary and Ann, by Sir Peter Lely. Over the two doors are two masterly landscapes, by an Italian hand. The chairs are covered with tapestry, each of which is prettily ornamented, with the story of a fable from Æsop. In this room is a small fire-screen, beautifully worked by the old lady Litchfield. In conformity to the style of this apartment, here are two beautiful Chinese figures; one a Chinese Lady, the other a Porter with a chest of tea.

On the whole this seat is a noble repository of valuable and masterly portraits, executed by the most eminent artists in that species of painting, Rubens, Vandyke, Sir Peter Lely, and Johnson. As a piece of architecture it is inferior to none, for the justness of its proportions, and the convenient disposition of its apartments. With regard to furniture and decorations, it is finished with equal taste and splendour.

About two miles to the south-west of Ditchley, is CHARLBURY, formerly a market town, situated on a

dry healthy soil, 67 miles from London, and containing 195 houses, and 965 inhabitants. It has five large fairs annually for horses, cows, and all sorts of other cattle, on the following days, viz. the 1st of January, the second Friday in Lent, the second Friday in May, the second Friday in July, and the 10th of October. The Vicarage House has been lately much improved by Dr. Cobb, the vicar; and commands an extensive view of Whichwood Forest and the adjacent country. Near this town, on the borders of the forest, is Blandford House and Park, a seat belonging to his Grace the Duke of Marlborough.

Returning to our road, at the distance of four miles from Kiddington, is the town of **WOODSTOCK**, pleasantly situated on a brook, which falls into the Isis. It is a borough and market-town, and contains several good buildings, and the streets are well paved. The Church is a handsome structure, and has a square tower, built with stone, also eight bells, and chimes that play at five, nine, and one: the tunes change every day in the week. The Town-house is a neat modern edifice. Here is also a good Free School, founded in the reign of Queen Elizabeth; three Alms-houses, endowed for three poor persons, and six more erected by the late Duchess of Marlborough. Woodstock is noted for its manufactures of fine wash-leather gloves, and polished steel trinkets.

The town, though small, sends two members to parliament; but it is wholly under the patronage of the Duke of Marlborough; and there having been no opposition to so potent an interest, the right of voting has never come under the adjudication of the House of Commons, it is admitted, however, to be in the mayor and commonalty. It is situated 62 miles from London, and contains 214 houses, and 1322 inhabitants, of whom 720 were returned as being employed in trade and manufacture. The market-day is Tuesday. Fair days, second Tuesday

after the 2nd of February, 5th of April, Whit-Tuesday, 2nd of August, 2nd of October, Tuesday after 2nd of November, and the 1st and 17th of December. Here are annual horse-races. The corporation consists of a high steward, recorder, two chamberlains, town-clerk, five aldermen (one of whom is always mayor), and 17 common councilmen.

Woodstock is so called from the Saxon word *Wadestoc*, signifying a woody place. It has been a royal seat, and here king Alfred translated *Boethius de Consolatione Philosophiæ*. In the time of king Ethelred it was so considerable a place that he called a parliament here. After the Conquest, Henry I. took great delight in the palace of this town, made some additions to the buildings, and in the year 1145, inclosed the park with a stone wall, which is said to have been the first enclosed park in England. In this palace Henry II. resided when Rice, prince of Wales, came in the year 1163, to do homage to that king and his son. But what has rendered this place most famous, was a labyrinth, said to have been built by that prince, called Rosamond's Bower, with a house in it to secrete his concubine Rosamond Clifford, from Eleanor his queen; but there are now no traces either of the palace or bower. In this palace the princess Elizabeth, afterward queen, was for some time kept prisoner. It retained its original splendour, and was inhabited by our kings, till the reign of Charles I. but began to be demolished in the succeeding times of confusion. Its magnificent ruins were remaining at the beginning of the 18th century, near the bridge to the north, on the spot where two sycamores have been since planted as a memorial.

Woodstock however is a town of high interest in many points of view, is distant about eight miles from the city of Oxford, on the north-west. Independent of the attraction gained from the neighbouring palace of Blenheim, Woodstock possesses undeniable claims on the respect and curiosity of

the examiner. It was here that some of the most august characters of English History resided in chivalric pomp; and here Chaucer, styled from circumstance of precedence, the father of English poetry, and deserving of elevated rank among his followers, on the ground of intrinsic merit, indulged delicious flights of imagination; here wrote many of the poems destined to transmit the character of his feelings to the sympathy of the latest posterity.

Old Woodstock, of which one venerable mansion, and a few irregular houses of the inferior order, now only remain, was built in a sheltered situation on the border of the river Glyme. The present town is placed on a fine and healthy eminence, and a progressive spirit of improvement is evident in every feature. The houses are chiefly composed of stone. Not any of the domestic buildings bear marks of great antiquity; but such as appear to have stood two centuries, like all the provincial tenements of the same age, are irregular in construction, and mean in character. These, however, are few, and act as emphatical memorials of the enlargement of idea and improvement of manners which have been the result of an extension of commerce. The majority of the buildings are desirably capacious, and many are of an embellished and ornamental description. Among the latter class must be mentioned the Rectory House, the residence of Dr. Mavor, a handsome stone structure erected by Bishop Fell; and the contiguous mansion of Pryse Pryse, Esq. Both these dwellings command exquisite views over Blenheim Park, so rich in circumstances of natural and artificial beauty. Hensington House, situate near the entrance of the town on the Oxford side, likewise possesses pleasing views, and is surrounded by well-ornamented grounds.

The town-hall is a handsome stone building, erected about the year 1766, after a design of Sir William Chambers, at the sole expense of his Grace the present Duke of Marlborough. Beneath the

hall is a piazza, used as a market-place. On the tympanum of a pediment in front of the edifice are the arms of the noble family of Marlborough.

Woodstock is a chapelry to the contiguous parish of Bladon; and the original place of worship was a chantry, founded in honour of "our Lady," by King John. At the dissolution Henry VIII. granted the Church to the Corporation of the town; but the patronage is in the gift of the Marlborough family. The south part of the present structure is a fragment of the ancient foundation; and on this side is a round-headed door-case, composed of red stone, and ornamented with chevron work. The northern face of the church was rebuilt about the year 1785; and at the same time a tower was erected at the west end. These alterations have been effected with considerable taste. The tower is of fair proportions, and charged with modest, yet sufficient ornaments.

The interior is arranged with decorous and respectable simplicity. The pews are handsome, and a good organ is placed in an appropriate situation. On the more ancient side three massy columns, support pointed arches. In the capitals are introduced various sculptures of the human countenance, all dissimilar, and chiefly tending to a comic effect. On the north every particular of building is modern, and remarkable for substantial plainness; a character of architecture perhaps best suited to buildings devoted to a sacred purpose. The font is of a recent date; the basin small, and the whole of a chaste and delicate construction.

The Register commences in 1653, and contains many entries of marriages between parties, strangers as well as parishioners, by the mayor of Woodstock, or by the person described as Justice of Peace for the incorporation, during the sway of the Parliament.

Adjoining the church is a grammar school, founded and endowed, in 1585, by Mr. Cornwell, a

native of this place, under a royal licence from Queen Elizabeth. 'The master must be a person in holy orders. and the Corporation are trustees. A charitable foundation of a more recent date likewise claims notice. Near the entrance of the town from Oxford is a range of alms-houses, erected and liberally endowed, in 1793, by Caroline, Duchess of Marlborough, for six poor widows.

Woodstock has two manufactures; those of polished steel and gloves, from which it derives considerable benefit. 'The articles of polished steel are entirely made from the old nails of horses' shoes, which are formed into small bars before applied to the various purposes of delicate workmanship. ship. 'The lustre of the article thus tediously wrought is eminently fine, and the polish is restored at a trifling expense, however great the apparent injury committed by rust. The price, obtained for some specimens of the Woodstock steel will convey an idea of the skill and labour bestowed. A chain, weighing only two ounces, was sold in France for 170*l.* sterling. A box, in which the freedom of the borough was presented to Lord Viscount Cliefden, cost thirty guineas; and for a garter star, made for his grace the Duke of Marlborough, fifty guineas were paid. 'This manufacture was introduced by a person of the name of Metcalfe, in the beginning of the last century, but is now much declined, in consequence of the cheapness of the Birmingham and Sheffield wares.

'The manufacture of leather into gloves and various other articles, was commenced at Woodstock nearly sixty years back, and has progressively risen in consequence and esteem. About 350 dozen pairs of gloves are now made weekly in the town and the neighbouring villages: and it is supposed that not less than sixty men, and thirteen hundred women and girls, find employment in various branches of the trade.

The internal government of Woodstock consists

of five aldermen, one of whom is annually chosen mayor; a high steward; a recorder; two chamberlains, and a common clerk; with fifteen capital burgesses. The first charter of incorporation was granted by Henry VI. in 1543. This was confirmed, enlarged, or altered, by various succeeding monarchs, the last of whom was Charles II. who granted the charter under which the Corporation now act. A restrictive charter, forced upon the borough in the 4th of James II. was soon after set aside by proclamation; and the charter subsequently granted is almost the counterpart of that of New Windsor.

It is shown by the rolls of Parliament that Woodstock was a borough by prescription, long before it was incorporated. The place now returns two burgesses to Parliament, who are chosen by the mayor and commonalty. This privilege is given optionally; and it appears from a former charter that the borough "was specially exempted from being compellable to send two members, out of royal grace and favour, on account of the expense attending the exercise of this franchise, when representatives were paid for their services in Parliament."

As a mark of adherence to ancient customs, it may be observed that the festivities termed Whitsun Ales are still retained in practice. The ceremony occurs every seventh year, when the inhabitants lay claim to certain portions of wood from Whichwood Forest to assist in the celebrations of the season.

Woodstock has not a meeting-house of any kind for the reception of Dissenters; nor does the town contain any inhabitants who professedly dissent from the established church.

According to the returns of 1811, the number of Houses is 227, and that of the inhabitants 1419.

Woodstock gives the title of Viscount to the Duke of Portland.

The honour of Woodstock was, in the reign of

Queen Anne, settled by parliament upon John Churchill, duke of Marlborough, who commanded the army of the grand alliance formed by great Britain, Holland, Portugal, and other powers, against France and Spain, and upon his descendants male and female, as a monument of national gratitude for his bravery and conduct.

A Palace was also erected for him at the public expense, in a most delightful situation, about half a mile to the west of Woodstock, which, to commemorate the important victory he obtained over the French and Bavarians at Blenheim, was called **BLENHHEIM HOUSE**. It is built wholly of free-stone, from a design of Sir John Vanburgh. The roof is adorned with a handsome balustrade, and much sculpture, but the towers have a heavy appearance, like most of that architect's performances, which occasioned the wits of the age to write the following epitaph on him after his death :

“ Lie heavy on him, Earth, for he
Laid many a heavy load on thee.”

In many parts the architecture is noble ; but in others it is spoiled by a profusion of decorations, which destroys the simplicity of the design ; upon the whole, however, it must be acknowledged to be a most magnificent structure.

The entrance to the Park, which is 12 miles in circumference, is through a spacious and elegant portal of the Corinthian order, from whence a noble prospect is opened to the palace, the bridge, the lake, with its valley, and other beautiful scenes of the park. The house, in particular, which is seen from this point obliquely, is probably no where seen to greater advantage. The front of this noble edifice is extended to the length of 348 feet, from wing to wing, and consists of a variety of beautiful and noble architecture. On the pediment of the south front, towards the garden, is a bust larger than life, of Louis XIV. taken from the gates of Tournay. The entrance to the house is on the east, through a portal, built in the style of

martial architecture, on the top of which is a reservoir, which supplies the house with water from the river. This portal leads to a quadrangle, chiefly consisting of arcades and offices, beyond which is the grand area.

In the centre of the front a superb portico, elevated on massy columns, leads to the Hall. This magnificent room runs to the height of the house, and is of proportionable breadth; it is supported by Corinthian pillars. The ceiling is painted by Sir James Thornhill, allegorically representing Victory crowning John, Duke of Marlborough, and pointing to a plan of the battle of Blenheim. In this room are two statues in bronze; viz. the Venus de Medici, and the Faun, both from the originals in marble in the Duke of Tuscany's collection at Florence, and executed by Max. Soldani Benzi, at Florence, in the year 1711. Over the door leading to the saloon, is a bust of John, duke of Marlborough. On the left of the hall is a passage leading to the apartments, finely hung with rich tapestry, representing Alexander's battles, with many pieces of Scripture history; there are also some fine paintings by Vandyke, and other masters, but they are so numerous that to describe the whole which adorn this magnificent palace would require a volume; many of them, however, are executed by the greatest masters.

The pictures in the Bow-window room, are by Schiavoni, Reynolds, Kneller, Tintoret, Rubens, Teniers, Giorgioni, &c. and the tapestry represents various battles of the Duke, one of which is that of Blenheim. The east dressing room is furnished with crimson damask, and decorated with several capital paintings, as well as the duke's dressing room, and the grand cabinet.

The Saloon is grand, and proportioned to the general magnificence: and the lower part is lined with marble, which renders it a pleasing retreat in the hot weather; the walls are painted with representations of the different nations in their various habits and

modes of dress, by La Guerre. The ceiling represents the Duke as stopped by Peace in the career of his victories, and Time reminding him of his own rapid flight by the same hand. Over the chimney, on the right hand from the entrance, is a bust of Caracalla, and over the other a Roman consul.

A series of smaller though magnificent apartments lead to the Library, which is a most superb room, being 183 feet long, 51 feet 9 inches wide in the centre, and 28 feet 6 inches at each end. The Doric pilasters of marble, with the complete columns of the same, which support a rich entablature, the window frames, the surrounding basement of black marble, and the stuccoed compartments of the vaulted ceiling, are in the highest taste both of design and finishing. It was originally intended as a gallery for paintings, but the grandfather of the present duke adding utility to elegance, furnished it with the noble collection of books, made by Lord Sunderland, his grace's father; their number is said to amount to 24,000 volumes, which have been allowed to be worth 30,000*l.* and is, perhaps, the best private collection in England. They are kept under gilt wire lattices. At one end of the room is a highly-finished statue of Queen Anne, by Rysbrack, with the following inscription:

“To the Memory of Queen ANNE,
under whose auspices
JOHN, Duke of MARLBOROUGH
conquered,
And to whose Munificence
He and his posterity
with gratitude
Owe the possession of Blenheim.
A. D. MDCCXXVI.”

There are also in this room two marble statues on mahogany terms, one of Diana, and one of Julia Domna; the latter antique. Also whole length portraits of King William III. Queen Anne; John, Duke of Marlborough; Sarah, Duchess of Marlborough;

Charles, Duke of Marlborough; Elizabeth, Duchess of Marlborough: the Honourable John Spencer; the Right Honourable Lady Georgiana Spencer, now Countess Cowper; Elizabeth, Countess of Bridgewater; Anne, Countess of Sunderland; John, Duke of Montague, and Francis, Earl of Godolphin. From the bow windows of this noble gallery there is a delightful prospect of the declivity descending to the water, and the gradual ascent of the venerable groves which cover the opposite hill.

The Chapel is one of the wings, in which is a superb monument to the memory of the first Duke and Duchess, by Rysbrack: they are represented with their two sons, who died young, as supported by Fame and History. Beneath, in basso-relievo, is the taking of Marshal Tallard.

The China Gallery is furnished with a most elegant and valuable collection of Dresden china, given to the Duke by the King of Poland, in return for a pack of stag-hounds: It consists of tureens, sets of plates and fantastical figures; the colours of which are remarkably lively, and the representations highly natural. Here are likewise some beautiful and costly jars, collected at a great expense by the late duchess dowager, besides other fine china of modern manufacture.

The gardens are spacious, and include a great variety of ground; the noble descent on the south-west side, the vastness and beauty of the water, the grandeur of the opposite bank, the cascade, the new bridge, and lower piece of water, form altogether such an assemblage of great and beautiful objects as is scarcely to be met with. The appearance of the ground on the south-east is a happy contrast to the south-west side; the gardens here seem to lose themselves in the park, amidst a profusion of venerable oaks and intersected avenues, from whence they derive an air of confusion and indeterminate extent.

These gardens have been considerably enlarged,

and were thrown into the form they now wear by the late Duke of Marlborough, who likewise farther beautified them by the addition of some judicious and well-placed ornaments, particularly the Temple of Diana, and two most noble bronzes, the Pancratiastæ, and L'Arratino, the execution of Max. Soldani Benzi, of Florence, with some copies of antique vases in stone.

In the new part of the gardens, near the cascade, a fountain is erected, which was a present to John, Duke of Marlborough; a work executed with consummate taste under the direction of the celebrated Bernini, after the model of the famous one in the Piazza Navonæ at Rome: the four river gods, represented as the guardian genii of the water, the horse also and lion are exquisite pieces of sculpture: in the centre is an obelisk, on one side of which is the subsequent Latin inscription, and on the three other sides is the same in three different languages, Greek, Italian, and Spanish:

“Ad Innocentium XI. Summum Pontificem.

Pro Carolo II, Hispaniarum Rege.

Excelc: D: Gazpar: D: De. Haro, et Guzman,

Murchio. D. Carpio. Et Helicheo Orator.

Ad Typum Molis. In Agonali Foro Erectæ

Ab Equite. Bernino, Opus. Hoc. Extrui.

Jussit, Eodem, dirigente, Qui. Interim,

Dum perficeretur. Defunctus.

Hoc. Posthumo. Partu: Inexhaustam:

Mentis. Fœcunditatem Clausit.

Anno Dom. M. DC. LXXXI.

Near this piece of Sculpture is a mineral spring, called New-found Well, which flows into a beautiful antique basin, externally adorned with figures in basso relievo, from which it is discharged by the mouths of two lions near the top, and immediately disappearing soon enters the lake.

About the middle of the grand approach, is a magnificent bridge, consisting of three arches, the

centre one of which is larger than the Rialto, at Venice; the water is formed into a spacious lake, which covers the whole extent of a capacious valley, surrounded by an artificial declivity of a prodigious depth, and is indisputably one of the finest pieces of artificial water in this kingdom.

The Park contains many delightful scenes, and the admirer of rural variety will be here gratified with every circumstance of beauty, which he can expect from diversified nature: from hill and valley, water and woods. In this Park originally stood the royal palace, before-mentioned, in which Edmund, the second son of Edward I., was born, and thence denominated Edmund of Woodstock; as was Edward the Black Prince. The romantic retreat, called Fair Rosamond's Bower, was situated on the hill, to the north-west of the bridge, above a remarkable bath, or spring, called at present Rosamond's Well.

In this park is an echo, which, according to Dr. Plot, when little wind was stirring, repeated 17 syllables very distinctly, and in the night 20. He says the object of it was the hill with the trees on the top of it, half a mile from the town, in the way to the Earl of Rochester's Lodge, and the true place for the speaker on the opposite hill, just without the gate, at the end of the town; but this echo has been greatly impaired by the removal of buildings.

In the grand avenue, leading to the house, is a stately column, terminated by a statue of the late duke; on the pedestal of which is an inscription, written in a plain, elegant, and masculine style, and as it contains a short enumeration of the whole of the transactions, and conquests of that illustrious general, we shall insert it at length. It is as follows:

“The Castle of *Blenheim* was founded by Q. ANN,
In the fourth Year of her Reign;
In the Year of the Christian *Æra* 1705;

A Monument designed to perpetuate the Memory of
the signal Victory

Obtain'd over the *French* and *Bavarians*,

Near the village of *Blenheim*,

On the Banks of the *Danube*,

By JOHN, Duke of MARLBOROUGH;

The Hero not only of his Nation, but of his age;
Whose Glory was equal in the Council and in the Field;

Who by Wisdom, Justice, Candour, and Address,

Reconciled various, and even opposite Interests;

Acquired an Influence, which no Rank,

no Authority can give,

Nor any Force but that of superior Virtue;

Became the fixed important Center,

Which united in one common Cause

The principal states of *Europe*;

Who by military Knowledge, and irresistible Valour,

In a long Series of uninterrupted Triumphs,

Broke the power of *France*,

When raised the highest, when exerted the most;

Rescued the *Empire* from Desolation;

Asserted and confirmed the Liberties of *Europe*.

“PHILIP, a grandson of the house of *France*, united to the interests, directed by the policy, supported by the Arms of that crown, was placed on the Throne of *Spain*. King *William* the Third beheld this formidable Union of two great, and once rival, monarchies. At the End of a Life spent in defending the Liberties of *Europe*, he saw them in their greatest Danger. He provided for their Security, in the most effectual Manner. He took the Duke of *Marlborough* into his Service.

“Ambassador extraordinary and Plenipotentiary
To the *States General* of the United Provinces,

“The Duke contracted several Alliances before the Death of King WILLIAM. He confirmed and improved these. He contracted others, after the Accession of Queen ANNE; and re-united the con-

federacy, which had been dissolved at the end of a former War, in a stricter and firmer League.

“Captain General and Commander in chief
Of the Forces of GREAT BRITAIN,

“The Duke led to the Field the Army of the Allies. He took with surprising Rapidity *Venlo*, *Ruremonde*, *Stevenswaert*, and *Liege*. He extended and secured the Frontiers of the *Dutch*. The enemies, whom he found insulting at the Gates of *Nimeguen*, were driven to seek for Shelter behind their Lines. He forced *Bonne*, *Huy*, *Limbours*, in another Campaign. He opened the Communication of the *Rhine*, as well as the *Maes*. He added all the County between these Rivers to his former Conquests. The Arms of *France* favoured by the Defection of the Elector of *Bavaria*, had penetrated into the Heart of the *Empire*. This mighty Body lay exposed to immediate Ruin. In that memorable Crisis, the Duke of MARLBOROUGH led his Troops with Unexampled Celerity, Secresy, and Order, from the *Ocean* to the *Danube*. He saw; he attacked; nor stopped, but to conquer the Enemy. He forced the *Bavarians*, sustained by the *French*, in their strong Intrenchments at *Schellenberg*. He passed the *Danube*. A second royal Army, composed of the best Troops of *France*, was sent to reinforce the first. That of the confederates was divided. With one Part of it the Siege of *Ingolsdadt* was carried on. With the other the Duke gave Battle to the united Strength of *France* and *Bavaria*. On the second Day of *August*, 1704, he gained a more glorious Victory than the histories of any Age can boast. The heaps of Slain were dreadful proofs of his Valour. A Marshal of *France*, whole Legions of *French* his prisoners, proclaimed his Mercy. *Bavaria* was subdued. *Ratisbon*, *Augsburg*, *Ulm*, and *Memingen*, all the Usurpations of the Enemy, were recovered. The Liberty of the *Diet*, the Peace of the *Empire*, were restored. From the *Danube*

the Duke turned his victorious Arms toward the *Rhine* and the *Moselle*. *Landau, Treves, Traerbach*, were taken. In the Course of one Campaign the very Nature of the War was changed. The invaders of other States were reduced to defend their own. The Frontier of *France* was exposed in its weakest Part to the Efforts of the Allies.

“ That he might improve his advantage, that he might push the sum of things to a speedy Decision, the Duke of **MARLBOROUGH** led his troops early in the following year once more to the *Moselle*. They, whom he had saved a few months before, neglected to second him now. They, who might have been his companions in conquest, refused to join him. When he saw the generous designs he had formed, frustrated by private interest, by pique, by jealousy, he returned with speed to the *Maes*. He returned, and fortune and victory returned with him. *Liege* was relieved; *Huy* retaken; the *French*, who had pressed the army of the *States-General* with superior numbers, retired behind intrenchments, which they deemed impregnable. The Duke forced these intrenchments, with considerable loss on the seventh day of *July*, 1705. He defeated a great part of the army, which defended them. The rest escaped by a precipitate retreat. If advantages proportionable to this success were not immediately obtained, let the failure be ascribed to that misfortune, which attends most confederacies, a division of opinions, where one alone should judge; a division of powers, where one alone should command. The disappointment itself did honour to the Duke. It became the wonder of mankind how he could do so much under those restraints which had hindered him from doing more.

“ Powers more absolute were given him afterwards. The encrease of his powers multiplied his victories. At the opening of the next campaign, when all his army was not yet assembled, when it was hardly known that he had taken the field, the noise of his triumphs was heard over *Europe*. On the 12th of

May, 1706, he attacked the *French* at *Ramilies*. In the space of two hours, the whole army was put to flight. The vigour and conduct, with which he improved this success, were equal to those with which he gained it. *Louvain, Brussels, Molines, Liege, Ghent, Oudenard, Antwerp, Damme, Bruges, Coutray*, surrendered. *Ostend, Menin, Dendermond, Aeth* were taken. *Brabant* and *Flanders* were recovered. Places, which had resisted the greatest Generals for months, for years; provinces, disputed for ages, were the conquests of a summer. Nor was the Duke content to triumph alone. Solicitous for the general interest, his care extended to the remotest scenes of the war. He chose to lessen his own army, that he might enable the leaders of other armies to conquer. To this it must be ascribed that *Turin* was relieved, the Duke of *Savoy* re-instated, the *French* driven with confusion out of *Italy*.

“ These victories gave the confederates an opportunity of carrying the war, on every side, into the dominions of *France*. But she continued to enjoy a kind of peaceful neutrality in *Germany*. From *Italy* she was once alarmed, and had no more to fear. The entire reduction of this power, whose ambition had caused, whose strength supported the war, seemed reserved for him alone, who had so triumphantly begun the glorious work.

“ The barrier of *France*, on the side of the *Low Countries*, had been forming for more than half a century. What art, power, expense could do, had been done to render it impenetrable. Yet here she was most exposed; for here the Duke of MARLBOROUGH threatened to attack her.

“ To cover what they had gained by surprise, or had been yielded to them by treachery, the *French* marched to the banks of the *Schelde*. At their head were the Princes of the Blood, and their most fortunate General, the Duke of *Vendosme*. Thus commanded, thus posted, they hoped to check the victor in his course. Vain was their hopes. The Duke of MARL-

BOROUGH passed the river in their sight. He defeated their whole army. The approach of night concealed, the proximity of *Ghent* favoured their flight. They neglected nothing to repair their loss; to defend their frontier. New Generals, new armies, appeared in the *Netherlands*. All contributed to enhance the glory, none were able to retard the progress of the confederate arms.

“ *Lisle*, the bulwark of this barrier, was besieged. A numerous garrison and a Marshal of *France* defended the place. Prince *Eugene* of *Savoy* commanded, the Duke of MARLBOROUGH, covered and sustained the siege. The rivers were seized, and the communication with *Holland* interrupted. The Duke opened new communications with great labour and much greater art. Through countries, over-run by the enemy, the necessary convoys arrived in safety. One alone was attacked. The troops, which attacked it were beat. The defence of *Lisle* was animated by assurances of relief.

“ The *French* assembled all their force. They marched towards the town. The Duke of MARLBOROUGH offered them battle, without suspending the siege. They abandoned the enterprize. They came to save the town. They were spectators of its fall.

“ From this conquest the Duke hastened to others. The posts taken by the enemy on the *Schelde* were surprised. That river was passed the second time; and notwithstanding the great preparations made to prevent it, without opposition.

“ *Brussels*, besieged by the elector of *Bavaria*, was relieved. *Ghent* surrendered to the Duke in the middle of a winter remarkably severe. An army, little inferior to his own, marched out of the place.

“ As soon as the season of the year permitted him to open another campaign, the Duke besieged and took *Tournay*. He invested *Mons*. Near this city the *French* army, covered by thick woods, defended by treble entrenchments, waited to molest, nor pre-

sumed to offer battle. Even this was not attempted by them with impunity. On the last day of *August*, 1709, the Duke attacked them in their camp. All was employed, nothing availed against the resolution of such a General; against the fury of such troops. The battle was bloody. The event decisive. The woods were pierced. The fortifications trampled down. The enemy fled. The town was taken. *Douay, Bethune, Aire, St. Venant, Bouchain* underwent the same fate in two succeeding years. Their vigorous resistance could not save them. The army of *France* durst not attempt to relieve them. It seemed preserved to defend the capital of the monarchy.

“ The Prospect of this extreme distress was neither distant nor dubious. The *French* acknowledged their Conqueror, and sued for Peace.

“ These are the Actions of the Duke of
MARLBOROUGH :

Perform'd in the Compass of a few Years,
Sufficient to adorn the Annals of Ages.

The Admiration of other Nations

Will be conveyed to latest Posterity,

In the Histories even of the Enemies of BRITAIN.

“ The Sense, which the BRITISH Nation had
Of his transcendent Merit,
Was expressed

In the most solemn, most effectual, most
durable Manner.

The ACTS of PARLIAMENT, inscribed on this Pillar,
Shall stand,

As long as the BRITISH Name and Language last,
Illustrious Monuments.

Of MARLBOROUGH's Glory

And

Of BRITAIN's Gratitude.”

The house itself was built at the public expense ; but the bridge, the column just mentioned, and the portal contiguous to the town, were erected solely at the charge of Sarah, duchess dowager of Marlborough.

The duke's descendants are obliged, by way of homage, for the tenure of this honour, or manorial district, to present annually a standard to the king on the 2nd of August, the anniversary of the victory of Blenheim; this standard is kept in the palace at Windsor.

About one mile to the south-west of Woodstock is the village of **BLADON**.

At **STONESFIELD**, a village situated about a mile to the west of Blenheim Park, several Roman pavements and buildings have been discovered within these few years.

Returning to the turnpike road, at the distance of two miles and a half from Woodstock, is the village of **BEGBROOKE**.

One mile and a half from Begbrooke is the village of **YARNTON**; the same distance beyond which, after crossing the Oxford Canal, is the township of **WOOLVERCOT**; one mile and a half beyond which is the city of Oxford.

After passing through the city of Oxford, we proceed in an easterly direction, and at the distance of five miles and a half pass through the village of **WHEATLEY**, situated 48 miles from London.

To the north-east of Wheatley, at the village of **Holton**, is **HOLTON PARK**, the seat of Edmund Biscoe, Esq. About half a mile from which we cross the Thame river, and proceeding easterly, on our left, pass Ricot Park, where was formerly a seat of the Earl of Abingdon; about two miles beyond which is the village of **TETSWORTH**, situated 44 miles from London.

About one mile to the north-east of the last-mentioned village is **THAME PARK**, the seat of Miss Wykham; one mile and a half beyond which is **THAME**, a market-town, pleasantly situated on the banks of the Thame, 10 miles from Oxford, and 46 from London. The town consists chiefly of one large street, in the centre of which is the Market-place. This town has the reputation of being a

burgh in the time of the Danes, who are said to have erected a fortification here, which was taken by Edward the Elder in the year 941, and the town suffered much by the Danes in 1010, when they over-ran the kingdom. In 1138, Alexander, bishop of Lincoln, erected a monastery near this town, which at the general Dissolution, was given to the Duke of Somerset. In the reign of Henry III. Lexington, bishop of Lincoln, to whose see the manor belonged, brought the great road to Aylesbury through the middle of the town, which then began to flourish. The Church is a large Gothic structure, near which are the remains of a prebendal building. It has a Free School, as also an Alms-house, for five poor men and a woman. The market, which is well furnished with live cattle, and all necessities, is on Tuesday; and the fairs on Easter Tuesday and Old Michaelmas Day.

About four miles to the south-east of Thame is the village of CHINNOR. At this place the Consular or Prætorian Way, called *Ikenild Street*, enters this county, which it entirely crosses in a south-westerly direction, and enters Berkshire, near the village of Goring.

Two miles to the south-west of Chinnor, is the village of ASTON ROWANT. This village is remarkable for a kind of markasite, by some called crow iron, which is found here. About two miles to the south-west of Aston Rowant, on the right of our road, is the village of SHIRBORN. Here is a fine seat belonging to the Earl of Macclesfield.

About one mile to the south of the last-mentioned village, is the town of WATLINGTON, a place of great antiquity, and supposed to have derived its name from the manner of the ancient Britons building their houses with wattles, or wicker work. It had anciently a castle, but the only traces of it left are an eminence and a moat, the latter of which is now converted into a fish-pond. At present the town does not contain any thing remarkable, except a

market-house, and a Free Grammar School. The town, which is situated 55 miles from London, contains, according to the late returns, 234 houses, and 1150 inhabitants. It has a weekly market on Saturday, and two annual fairs on the 25th of March and 10th of October.

Returning from our digression, at the distance of seven miles from Tetsworth, and 20 from Oxford, is the village of **STOKEN CHURCH**, situated 36 miles from London, and containing 135 houses, and 888 inhabitants.

Journey from Cotesford to Oxford, through Middleton Stoney.

COTESFORD is a small village, situated on the borders of Northamptonshire, and about one mile from the turnpike road, and 60 from London; it contains 23 houses, and 106 inhabitants.

Proceeding in a southerly direction, at the distance of four miles from Cotesford, we pass through the village of **ARDLEY**. About three miles to the west of which is the village of **STRATTON AUDLEY**. Near this place are the remains of an ancient castle, which is said to have flourished in the time of king Stephen, and to have been destroyed by order of that monarch.

Returning to our road, at the distance of two miles from Ardley, is **MIDDLETON STONEY**, a township, situated 57 miles from London; and about two miles to the east of which is

BICESTER, a handsome and well-built market-town, situated on a rivulet that runs into the Charwell, at Islip. The Church, which is neat, large, and commodious, has a lofty tower, with a remarkable fine-toned organ, and a good ring of bells. In the church and chancel are many curious and costly monuments, particularly one lately erected to the memory of the late Sir Edward Turner, and his lady. Here is also a handsome meeting-house for dissenters. It has likewise a Charity School on a liberal scale, and among other charities is one

called the *Fcoffees* ; it is the net produce of certain lands about 120*l.* a year value, which is applied in the relief of decayed tradesmen. The parish is divided into two districts or townships, for the maintenance of its poor, called the *Market End*, and *King's End*. The only manufacture worthy of note carried on here, is that for the common leather slippers, where it is supposed more are made than at any other place in the kingdom. The manufactory of sack-cloth and the combing of Jersey, which have been carried on to a great extent, have of late years been much on the decline, the poor now, and for some time past, having been employed in the lace-trade. This town is noted for the excellency of its malt-liquor. It has a good market on Friday, and those in the spring and autumn, for the sale of sheep, are very large, being much resorted to by graziers, even at twenty miles distance. It has seven annual fairs.

Bicester, which appears to have been a place of great antiquity, is situated 58 miles from London, and contains 424 houses, and 2156 inhabitants.

In the neighbourhood of this town are the remains of an old fortification, called *Alcester*, which, in the Saxon language, signifies an old castle ; they are situated on the Roman highway, called *Akeman Street*, and their area is now placed under the operation of the plough. That this was a place of great strength, and even the site of a once-flourishing city, is evident from the great number of coins and other antiquities that have been dug up ; and it is no uncommon thing for the husbandmen to break their ploughs against the ruins of the foundation. The city was fenced round with a bank and ditch, which are still visible, and the sides faced the four cardinal points. Great foundations have been likewise found in the adjoining fields ; and on the west is an artificial mount, called *Castle Hill*, which is full of Roman bricks, stones, and foundations.

Returning from our digression, at the distance of

three miles from Middleton Stoney, is the village of **WESTON-ON-THE-GREEN**. About one mile to the north-west of which is **KIRKLINGTON**. To the east of this village is Kirklington Park, the seat of Sir Henry W. Dashwood, Bart.

About one mile to the south of Kirklington is the village of **BLETCHINGTON**. To the north of this village is Bletchington Park, late the seat of A. Annesley, Esq.

Two miles to the north-east of Bletchington, on the left of our road, is **ISLIP**, a place noted in history as the birth-place of Edward the Confessor, whose father had a palace near the church, not a trace of which is now remaining. This village is situated on the river Charwell.

Returning to our road, at the distance of four miles from Weston-on-the-Green, we cross the river Charwell, at a place called Gosford Bridge, four miles and a half from which is the city of Oxford.

Journey from Burford to Ensham, through Witney.

On leaving Burford, which we have already described in a former journey, we proceed in an easterly direction, and, at the distance of about two miles, pass the village of **ASTALL** on our left. This village is situated 70 miles from London.

About a half a mile to the north-west of Astall is the small village of Swinbrook, where the family of Fettiplace had formerly a residence.

At **MINSTER LOVEL**, a village about two miles to the east of Astall, and half a mile to the left of our road, are the remains of an ancient priory, formerly a cell to one of the Norman Abbeys; it was situated in a valley, close to the northernmost bank of the Windrush, and about 100 yards south of the parish church. It appears, from its ruins, to have been a large and elegant building. Some buildings, formerly offices to the monastery, are converted into out houses, for an adjoining farm.

At two miles from Minster Lovel we enter

WITNEY, a town of considerable antiquity, pleasantly situated, 69 miles from London, on the river Windrush, near the Roman-highway, called Akeman Street. It was a considerable place before the Conquest, after which the number of its inhabitants increased so fast, that it received summonses to send members to parliament in the reign of Edward II. which it continued to do till the 33d of Edward III. and no longer.

The town consists of two streets; at the upper end of the principal one stands the Church, a handsome and spacious structure, built in a rich style of Gothic architecture, with a fine spire, and a peal of eight bells. Here is an extensive Free School founded by Henry Box, a citizen of London, in the reign of Charles II. There is also an Alms-house for widows, and a Charity School. Witney has long been noted for its manufacture of blankets, which employs a great number of hands, and in the reign of Queen Anne the blanket weavers were incorporated, under the style of the master, assistants, wardens, and commonalty of the blanket weavers of Witney; they have also their hall, in which they regulate all matters respecting the measure, mark, and staple commodity. The blankets are scoured by mills, erected on the river Windrush, whose water is said to have a peculiar nitrous quality, well adapted for the purpose. The market-day is on Thursday; and its fairs are Easter Tuesday, Holy Thursday, 10th July, Thursday before the 10th October, Thursday after September 8, and the 4th of December. It is a borough town, governed by two bailiffs, chosen annually on the first Tuesday after St. Michael; and consists of 520 houses, and 2722 inhabitants.

Witney was one of the manors which Alwin, bishop of Winchester, gave to the church of St. Swithin there, on Queen Emma's passing over the fiery ordeal.

Three miles to the south of Witney is Cockthorpe, heretofore the residence of the late Earl

of Harcourt, now the seat of Maximilian Western, Esq.

At COGGES, a village about two miles to the north-east of Cockthorpe, was formerly a small priory.

Returning to the turnpike road, at the distance of five miles from Witney, is the village of EYNHAM, situated near the river Isis, over which it has a handsome stone bridge. It was once a place of great repute, having in it a noble monastery, scarcely any relics, however, are now to be discovered: it was founded in the time of the Saxons, when Eynsham was a royal village. Till within the last century, an old custom prevailed in this parish, by which the townspeople were allowed, on Whit-Monday, to cut down and carry away as much timber, as could be drawn by men's hands into the Abbey yard, the churchwardens previously marking out such timber, by giving the first chop: so much as they could carry out again, notwithstanding the opposition of the servants of the abbey to prevent it, they were to keep for the reparation of the church. But about the beginning of the last century this practice was laid aside by mutual consent. Eynsham is situated 61 miles from London.

About two miles to the south-west of Eynsham, is STANTON HARCOURT, a village situated on the banks of the Thames. This place is noted, as having some curious remains of antiquity in the seat of the Harcourt family. The Chapel, says Mr. Grose, is undoubtedly very ancient, as are most of the buildings of this venerable mansion, which, with the manor, have been in the family of the Harcourts upwards of six centuries. The exact time of their erection is not known.

The inside of the chapel is still entire. It was the private oratory or place of worship of the family; the ceiling, which was painted, carved, and gilded, is in tolerable preservation. It joined to the great hall with which it communicated by a door opposite the altar, above which was a window, enriched

with stained glass, whereon were depicted the different quarterings borne by the Harcourts, and also the portraits of persons habited like warriors, having on their shields and mantles the arms and crests of that ancient family. The stained glass was removed several years ago, to prevent its being destroyed.

The Chapel is now kept locked up, it not being made use of. In the tower are three rooms, and over a part of the chapel is a fourth, all of them accessible, by means of the winding stairs of stone that lead to the leads. One of these rooms Pope made use of as a study, having passed two summers at Stanton Harcourt, for the sake of retirement, while employed in his translation of Homer: the fifth volume of which he finished here, as appears by the following memorandum, with a diamond, on a piece of red stained glass, now in the possession of Lord Harcourt.

“In the year 1718,
Alexander Pope
finished here the
fifth volume of Homer.”

Here too Pope wrote his epitaph on the two lovers struck dead by lightning; an event which happened in the common field near this house, during his residence here. This epitaph is incised on a mural tablet on the outer wall of the parish church, within which building is his celebrated epitaph on the honourable Simon Harcourt.

The estate of Stanton Harcourt was held of the crown by the following service: The Lord of the place was bound to find four browsers (persons so called) in Woodstock park in winter time, when the snow shall happen to fall, and tarry for the space of two days; and so to find the said browsers there browsing so long as the snow doth lye; every browser to have his lodging every night, one billet of wood the length of his axe helve, and that to carry to his lodging upon the edge of his axe. And the King's bailiff of the demesnes or the hundred of Woodstock

coming to give warning of the approach of the said browsers, was to blow his horn at the gate of the manor of Stanton Harcourt; and then the said bailiff was to have a cask of bread, a gallon of ale, and a piece of beef, of the said Lord; and the said Lord, or other for the time being, was to have of custom yearly out of the said park, one buck in summer, and one doe in winter. The lord of Stanton was likewise to make, rear, and carry, the grass growing in a certain meadow within the park of Woodstock.

The ancient family of Harcourt chiefly resided on this manor till the latter part of the seventeenth century, and some curious fragments of a mansion constructed by them at a very early period are still in existence.

The porter's lodge is the most modern part. On either side of the gate are the arms Harcourt, impaling Darrel: a proof that the gate was erected by Sir Simon Harcourt, who died in 1547.

The kitchen is on a construction of which we have only one more example remaining in England; the kitchen formerly appertaining to the abbey of Glastonbury. The walls are three feet thick. "Below, the room is nothing but a large square, and octangular above, ascending like a tower; the fires being made against the walls, and the smoke climbing up them, without any tunnels, or disturbance to the cooks; which, being stopped by a large conical roof at the top, goes out at loop-holes, on every side, according as the wind sits; the loop-holes, at the side next the wind being shut with folding doors, and the adverse side opened. 'Thus,' says Plot, "one may truly call it either a kitchen within a chimney, or a kitchen without one." The date at which this building was first erected is not known, but it is supposed to have been repaired about the reign of Henry IV. at which time the present windows were probably inserted. The height of the walls to the bottom of the roof is 39 feet. The roof rises 25 feet in the centre.

The few adjoining rooms possess no circumstance of interest, and are at present inhabited by the family of a farmer.

The principal apartments stood between the kitchen and the domestic chapel. One of these was called the *Queen's Chamber*, from Elizabeth, Queen of Bohemia, who was entertained with much splendour in this mansion. Sir Philip Harcourt was the last of the family who resided at Stanton Harcourt. The estate was settled in jointure on his widow. This lady disposed of the furniture, by sale, in 1688, and suffered the buildings to decay through neglect. Many of the principal rooms, however, were not taken down till about half a century back.

The domestic chapel, with a chamber over part of it, and a tower, containing three apartments one above the other, each thirteen feet square, is likely to endure for many years. The lower part has a flat wooden ceiling, composed of squares, with red and yellow mouldings. The painted ground is blue, with gilded stars in the middle of each compartment. The windows were formerly filled with stained glass, containing armorial bearings.

The tower is thought to have been erected in the reign of Edward IV. though the arch of the largest window rather resembles the style which prevailed in the time of Henry VII. The upper room in this tower yet retains the name of *Pope's Study*. That poet passed a part of two summers in the deserted mansion of Stanton Harcourt, while engaged in translating Homer. His noble friends, the proprietors of the domain, resided, meantime, at the more cheerful neighbouring seat, termed Cockthorpe. There *Gay* was their inmate; and he was nearly the only person who presumed to break occasionally on the great translator's retirement.

The *Church* is a spacious and handsome building, of the cruciform character. The windows in the lower part of the tower are of Saxon architecture; those in the upper division are of a much more recent date. The principal entrance is by a round-

headed arch; on one side of which is a small stone receptacle for Holy-Water. At a small distance is another door, used by the women only; as, from a custom of immemorial standing, they never pass through the same entrance with the men. The nave is evidently, from the concurrence of round-headed windows, a part of the original structure; the other divisions of the building are chiefly of a later date. The windows in the chancel are all of a slender lancet shape.

The church contains several ancient brasses. Under an arch, in the south wall of the chancel, is the tomb of Maud, daughter of John, Lord Grey, of Rotherfield, wife of Sir Thomas de Harcourt, who died in the 17th of Richard II. On the tomb is her effigy, in the costume of that age. Among several memorials unconnected with the Harcourts, is the mural monument of Robert Huntingdon, and his son, Esquires, with a poetical epitaph by Congreve, by no means remarkable for felicity of thought or elegance of expression.

Annexed to the south wall of the chancel is the burial-chapel of the Harcourt family, an ornamented Gothic building, probably of the time of Edward IV. Under the east window, where the altar formerly stood, is a large monument of marble and alabaster, with gilding, to the memory of Sir Philip Harcourt, and his wife, Anne, daughter of Sir William Waller, the Parliamentary general.

On the south side is the monument of Sir Robert Harcourt and his wife Margaret. This Sir Robert was slain by the Staffords of the Lancastrian party, in 1471. He is represented "in his hair; a gorget of mail, and plated armour, strapped at the elbows and wrists, a large hilted sword on the left, and a dagger on the right, the belt charged with oak-leaves. Shoes of scaled armour; the order of the garter on the left leg; and, over all, the mantle of the order, with a rich crape and cordon.

"His lady is in the veiled head-dress, falling back;

has a mantle, a surcoat, and a cordon; long sleeves, fastened in a singular manner at the wrists; and the garter, with the motto in embossed letters, above the elbow of the left arm; her feet are partly wrapped up in her mantle."

Facing this monument is that of Sir Robert Harcourt, grandson of the persons last commemorated. He was standard bearer to the Earl of Richmond, afterwards Henry VII. at the battle of Bosworth, and was created a Knight of the Bath, by his successful patron. His effigies are sculptured in plated armour. On the front of the monument are four monks in black, and two angels, holding each a shield. A red rose, at the head, perpetuates the adherence of Sir Robert to the house of Lancaster.

Not far distant is a large mural monument, adorned with flowers, to the memory of Simon, only son of Simon, first Viscount Harcourt. On the tablet is an inscription in Latin, composed by Dr. Friend; below which are the well-known lines by Pope.

After quitting the costly records of departed greatness, our notice is attracted by a simple monumental tribute to a youthful pair, in humble life, whose story created much interest at the time of their decease. On the outside of the south walk is a tablet to the memory of John Hewit, and Sarah Diew, who were killed by lightning on "the last day of July, 1718." The tablet is honoured with this inscription by Pope:

'Think not by rig'rous judgment seiz'd
A pair so faithful could expire.
Victims so pure Heav'n saw well pleased
And snatch'd them in celestial fire.

Live well, and fear no sudden fate!
When God calls virtue to the grave.
Alike 'tis justice soon or late,
Mercy alike to kill or save.
Virtue unmov'd can hear the call,
And face the flash that melts the ball.

In a letter, written by Gay, this melancholy event is thus described :—" John Hewit was a well set man, of about twenty-five. Sarah Drew might be called comely rather than beautiful, and was about the same age. They had passed through the various labours of the year together, with the greatest satisfaction. Their love was the talk of the whole neighbourhood, for scandal never affirmed that they had any other views than the lawful possession of each other in marriage. It was that very morning they had obtained the consent of her parents, and it was but till the next week they had to wait to be happy.

" Perhaps, at the first interval of their work, they were now talking of their wedding clothes, and John was suiting several sorts of poppies and field flowers to her complexion, to choose her a hat for the wedding day. While they were thus busied (it was between two and three in the afternoon) the clouds grew black; and such a storm of lightning and thunder ensued, that all the labourers made the best of their way to what shelter the trees and hedges afforded. Sarah was frightened and fell down in a swoon on a heap of barley. John, who never separated from her, sat down by her side, having raked together two or three heaps the better to secure her from the storm.

" Immediately there was heard so loud a crack, as if heaven had split asunder! Every one was now solicitous for the safety of his neighbour; and they called to one another throughout the field; no answer being returned to those who called to our lovers, they stepped to the place where they lay. They perceived the barley all in a smoke, and then spied the faithful pair, John with one arm about Sarah's neck, and the other held over her as if to screen her from the lightning. They were struck dead, and stiffened in this tender posture. Sarah's left eye brow was singed, and there appeared a black spot on her breast. Her lover was all over black; but not the least signs of life were

found in either. Attended by their melancholy companions they were conveyed to the town, and next day were interred in Stanton Harcourt church-yard."

In the neighbourhood of Stanton Harcourt are three large monumental stones, known by the name of the *Devil's Coits*. These, Warton, in his History of Kiddington, supposes were erected to commemorate a battle fought near Bampton, between the British and the Saxons, in the year 614; on which occasion the Saxon princes Cynegils and Cwhicelon slew a great number of the British. At a short distance was a barrow; but this is now destroyed.

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INDEX.

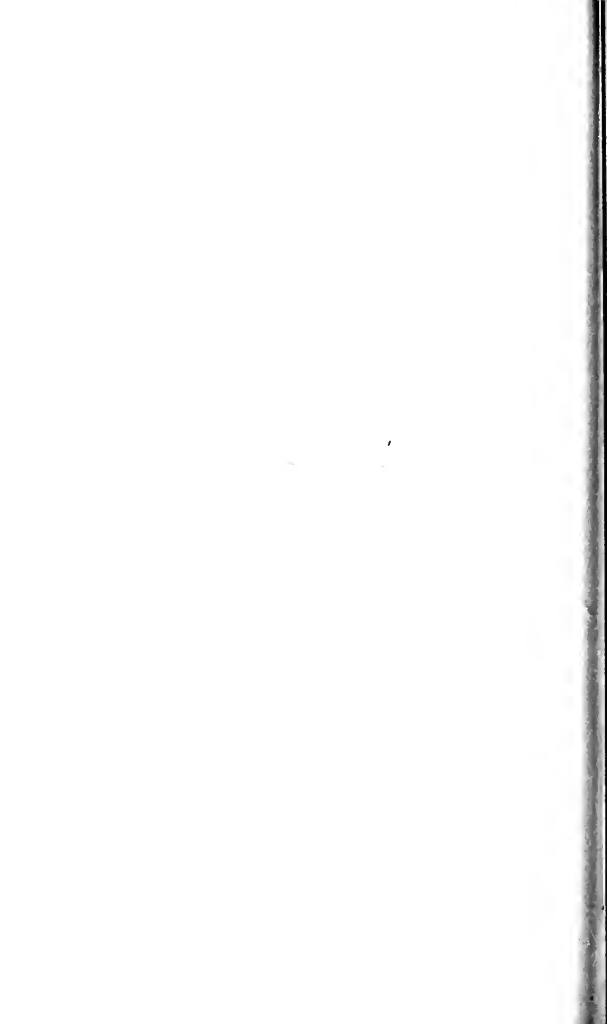
| | Page. | | Page. |
|-----------------------------------|---------------|-----------------------------------|--------|
| ADDERBURY | 35 | Boar's Head, custom of intro- | |
| Alester | 106 | ducing, | 62 |
| Allegorical pictures ... | 114, 115, 116 | Bodicot | 35 |
| Allegories, moral, | 77 | Bodleian, the, or Public Library, | 112 |
| Anthony Wood, collections of, | 120 | Botanical Garden, the, at Ox- | |
| Antiquities, a collection of, ... | 119 | ford, | 80 |
| Ashmolean Museum, the, ... | 117 | Boundaries and extent of the | |
| Ashmole's Study | 119 | County | 21 |
| Aston Rowant | 164 | Bourton, Great and Little, ... | 33 |
| | | Broadgate Hall | 104 |
| Banbury | 34 | Broughton | 135 |
| Bankers, List of, | 20 | Burford | 136 |
| Bampton | 157 | Busby, Dr., Painting of, | 91 |
| Barford | 36 | | |
| Begbrooke | 163 | Canals | 26 |
| Bensington | 132 | Cattle | 30 |
| Bible, English, older than Wick- | | Caversham Park | 134 |
| liffe, 83—old history of, in | | Chadlington | 136 |
| French, | 84 | Charlbury | 144 |
| Bicester | 165, 166 | Charwell, the, | 23, 25 |
| Blackstone, Judge, statue of, ... | 73 | Chaucer | 147 |
| Blenheim House 151—Front of, | | Chichele, Henry, | 74 |
| ib.—Entrance into, 152— | | Chiltern Hills, the, | 24 |
| Portico of, superb, ib.—Paint- | | Chinnor, Village of, | 164 |
| ings at, ib.—Saloon ib.—Li- | | Chipping Norton | 135 |
| brary 153—Statues of Queen | | Church Emstone | 141 |
| Anne, &c. ib.—Chapel 154 | | Clanfield | 137 |
| —China Gallery ib.—Gar- | | Clarendon Printing House, the, | 120 |
| dens ib.—Cascade and Obe- | | Clattercote | 33 |
| lisk 155—Mineral Spring ib. | | Claydon | ib. |
| Magnificent Bridge ib.—Park | | Cobbs, the seat of, | 35 |
| 156—Column, stately, 156, | | Cockthorpe | 168 |
| 157—Achievements of the | | Coins, Grecian, Roman, and | |
| original Proprietor of, | 158 | Saxon, | 119 |
| Bladon, Village of, | 163 | Conduit, the celebrated, | 125 |
| Bletchington | 167 | Corpus Christi College | 124 |
| Bloxham | 133 | Corregio, the Night of, | 61 |

| | Page. | | Page. |
|---|----------|----------------------------------|----------|
| Colesford | 165 | Henley, Town of, 25, 133— | |
| Cotteswold Hills | 24 | Bridge | 134 |
| Cottages, comfortable, | 27, 28 | Haythorp | 138 |
| Cowley, Village of, | 126 | Hieroglyphics, various, | 77 |
| Cropredy | 33 | Holton Park | 163 |
| Crowmarsh | 133 | Hook Norton | 137 |
| | | Horley | 35 |
| | | Hornton | ib. |
| Deddington | 35, 36 | | |
| Devil's Coits, the, | 176 | Ifley, Village of, | 125 |
| Dial, a cylindrical, | 83 | Implements | 29 |
| Dial by Sir Christopher Wren ... | 73 | Inspection Table | 9 |
| Ditchley, the seat of the Earl | | Isis, the, | 24 |
| of Litchfield, 141, 143— | | Islip | 167 |
| Chinese Drawing-room at, ... | 144 | Itinerary | 10 |
| Divinity School, the, at Oxford, | 113 | Kenet, the, | 25 |
| Divisions, Civil and Ecclesiastical, | | Kiddington | 141, 145 |
| | 32 | Kidlington | 36 |
| Dorchester 131—Church ib.— | | | |
| Bridge | 132 | | |
| Drayton | 34 | Lake, great, near Woodstock, | 23 |
| Dugdale, Sir William, | 119 | Laud, Archbishop, | 98, 99 |
| Duns Tew | 36 | Leases | 28 |
| Durham, Bishop of, | 27 | Library, the new, or Radclivian, | 110 |
| | | Literature | 32 |
| | | Lovers, the unfortunate, | 174 |
| Edifices, large, a vision of, ... | 121 | Magdalene College | 123 |
| Ergene, John, a Scotchman ... | 81 | Magdalene Hall 109—Fire at, ib. | |
| Euclid, a manuscript of, | 95 | Magnet, a large one, | 118 |
| Evenlode, the, | 25 | Manufactures | 30 |
| Eynsham | 169 | Mallard, Ceremony of the, ... | 75 |
| | | — Night, | ib. |
| Fairs | 18 | Marlborough, Duke of, | 151 |
| Farm Houses | 27 | —, Summary of his | |
| Farms, size of, | 28 | Achievements, | 157 |
| Ferry Hincksey, view of Oxford from, | 125 | Medler's Bank | 133 |
| Fishing | 26 | Merry Christ Church Bells, the, | 85 |
| | | Middleton Stoney | 165 |
| | | Middle and Steeple Aston ... | 36 |
| | | Minster Lovel | 167 |
| | | Mollington | 33 |
| Gay | 172, 175 | Mongewell House | 133 |
| Gloucester Monastery | 106 | Monumental Stones | 176 |
| Glympton Park | 142 | | |
| Gosford Bridge | 167 | | |
| Gothic Architecture, superb ... | 63 | Name and Ancient History ... | 21 |
| | | Newspapers | 32 |
| Hall, probably the largest, ... | 86 | New-Inn Hall | 109 |
| Halls 108—St. Alban's, ib.— | | Norman Architecture | 125 |
| Edmund's, ib.—St. Mary's, ib. | | North Aston | 36 |
| Halls, various, | 124 | Nuneham Courtney 126—Seat | |
| Hanging Gardens | 122 | of, 127—House and Rooms, | |
| Hanwell | 35 | ib.—Flower Garden 128— | |
| Harcourt, Lord, Seat of, at | | Grotto ib.—Temple of Flora | |
| Nuneham | 24 | 129—The Bower ib.—The | |
| Harcourt, Earl of, | 126 | Urn ib.—The Conservatory | |
| Harcourts, Family of the, ... | 173 | 130—The Church | 131 |

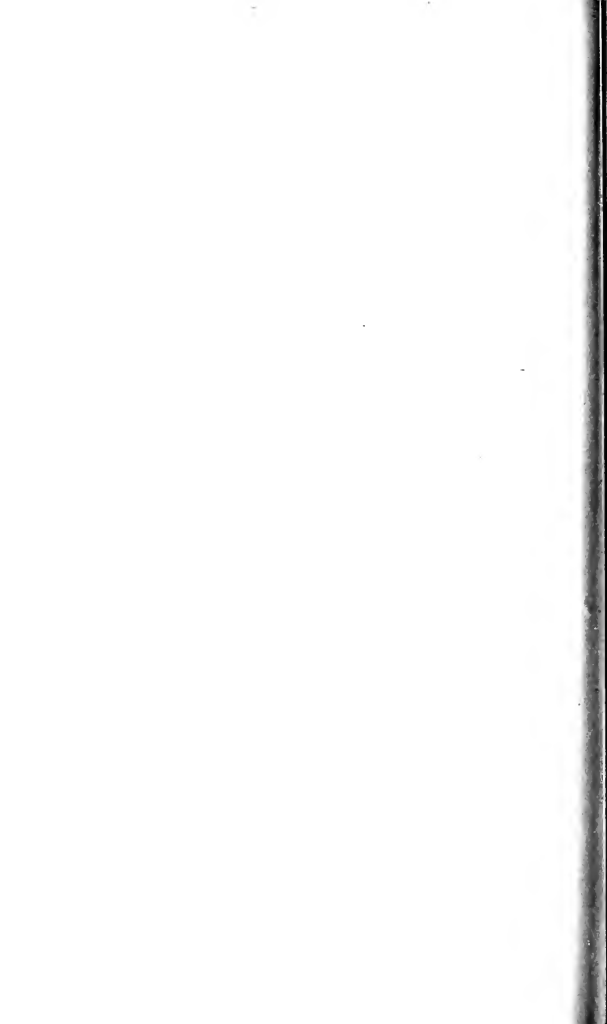
| Page. | | Page. |
|-------|--|----------|
| 125 | Quarter Sessions | 20 |
| 30 | Queen Elizabeth, Picture of, ... | 91 |
| | Nuneham Park, a drive round, | |
| | Nut-fair, the, | |
| | Oseney, Island of, 126—Stately | |
| | Abbey of, ib. | |
| | Otmoor | |
| | Oxford, fine Prospect of, 23— | |
| | Principal Entrances to, 36— | |
| | Antiquity of, 37—Castle ib. | |
| | —Monastic Establishments at, | |
| | ib.—Circuit of, 38—Suburbs | |
| | ib.—Walls ib.—Principal | |
| | Street ib.—Fish Street ib.— | |
| | St. Giles's ib.—Observatory | |
| | near, 39—Principal Bridges | |
| | ib.—Parishes 40.—Churches | |
| | ib.—St. Mary's 41—All Saints | |
| | ib.—St. Peter's in the East 42 | |
| | —St. John's ib.—St. Mary | |
| | Magdalen's 43—Holywell ib. | |
| | —St. Michael's ib.—St. Pe- | |
| | ter's in the Bailey 44—Car- | |
| | fax, or St. Martin's, ib.—St. | |
| | Clement's, St Ebb's, St. Al- | |
| | date's, St. Thomas's 44, 45— | |
| | Improvements at, one of the | |
| | best, 45—Markets 46—Go- | |
| | vernment of, ib.—Pennyles | |
| | Beach at, ib.—Town and | |
| | County Hall 47—Radcliffe | |
| | Infirmiry ib.—Charitable In- | |
| | stitutions 48—Schools and | |
| | Religious Houses ib.—Town | |
| | and County Gaols 49, 50— | |
| | Castle ib.—The varieties of, | |
| | 120—Six days' walk though, | |
| | 121—View of the Spires at, | |
| | Painted Cloth, singular, ... | |
| | Paintings, various, 63—Alle- | |
| | gorical, 65, 66—By Sir Josh- | |
| | ua Reynolds, ib.—By Annibal | |
| | Caracci, ib.—By Sir James | |
| | Thornhill and Mengs, 72—In | |
| | the Ashmolean Museum, ... | |
| | Picture Gallery at Oxford ... | |
| | Pictures, ancient, | |
| | Pamphlets, a remarkable Col- | |
| | lection of, | |
| | Pope's Study | |
| | Population | |
| | Potatoes | |
| | Public Schools, the, at Oxford, | |
| | Pyrites, or Thunderbolts, ... | |
| | Quadrangle, grand, at Oxford, | |
| | Radcliffe, Dr., Coffin of, discovered, | 69 |
| | Radcot | 137 |
| 30 | Rents, very light, | 28 |
| | Ridged Way, the, | 162 |
| | Rivers | 22 |
| | Roads | ib. |
| | Rollwright | 137 |
| | Roman Candlesticks, superb, ... | 111 |
| | Sandford | 126 |
| | Shillingford | 132 |
| | Shiplake | 134 |
| | Shipton | 136 |
| | Shrewsbury, Seat of the Earl of, | |
| | 138, 139—Gardens of the, | 140 |
| | Sins, the seven deadly, | 125 |
| | South Newington | 135 |
| | Stanton Harcourt 169—Chapel | |
| | at, ib.—Pope's Study 170— | |
| | Service attached to the Estate | |
| | ib.—Curious Kitchen at, 171 | |
| | —Queen's Chamber at, 172— | |
| | Chapel, Church, and Monu- | |
| | ments | 173 |
| | Steeple Barton | 141 |
| | St. Frideswida, Monument of, | 89, 90 |
| | Stoken Church, | 165 |
| | Stonesfield | 163 |
| | Students, Discipline of, 107— | |
| | First Dresses of, ib. | |
| | Swarford | 135 |
| 122 | Tackley | 36 |
| | Tapestry, curious, | 144 |
| | Tetsworth | 163 |
| 102 | Thame, the, 22, 26—Town of, | 164 |
| | Theatre, the, at Oxford, ... | 113, 114 |
| | Thunder-storm, dreadful, ... | 175 |
| | Tithes | 29 |
| | Titles conferred by the County | 19 |
| 119 | Tom, the great Bell so called, | 85, 87 |
| 113 | Tuffield | 133 |
| 96 | Vanburg, Sir John, | 151 |
| 83 | Views, many fine, | 125 |
| 172 | | |
| 22 | | |
| 27 | University of Oxford, origin of | |
| 111 | the, 50, 51—number of Col- | |
| 35 | leges in the, 52—Colleges ib. | |
| | —College founded by King | |
| 121 | Alfred 53—Balliol 54—Mer- | |

| | Page. | | Page. |
|-----------------------------|-------|------------------------------|------------|
| ton 55—Exeter 57—Oriel 58 | | Weston on the Green | 167 |
| —Queen's 60—New College | | Wheatley | 163 |
| 63—St. Mary's 68—Lincoln | | Whichwood, forest of, | 30 |
| 69—All Souls 71—Magdalene | | William of Wykeham | 67 |
| 75—Botanical garden belong- | | Windows, painted, | 64, 65, 70 |
| ing to the, 80—Brazen Nose | | Windrush, the, | 25 |
| 81—Corpus Christi 83— | | Witney 30, 168—blankets ... | ib. |
| Christchurch 85—Peckwater | | Wolsey, Cardinal, | 93 |
| Court 91—Canterbury Court | | Woodstock 145—Church 148— | |
| 92—Trinity 94—St. John's | | Races 146—Park ib.—Palace, | |
| 97—Jesus 100—Wadham 101 | | Old, 147—Town-hall ib.— | |
| —Pembroke 103—Worcester | | Chapelry 148—Grammar | |
| 105—Hertford | 106 | School 149—Manufactures ib. | |
| University College | 123 | Government 150—honour of, | 150 |
| Waste, dreary, | 30 | Wroxton | 34 |
| Watlington | 164 | Yarnton | 163 |











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